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Applications for conversion will be received up to April 30 next inclusive.

The interest upon the new debentures will be payable by coupons in the same manner as upon the Consol debentures—viz., January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15, at the Bank of England, the first coupon being for the dividend due July 15 next.

Consol debentures, from which the coupon due April 15 next must be detached, may be deposited at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, for exchange on or after Wednesday, the 11th inst. They must bear all coupons subsequent to that due April 15 next, and must be left three clear days for examination. Receipts will be given for the debentures deposited, and the new debentures will be issued in exchange as soon after as possible.

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| | |
|---|---|
| Reserve .. .. .. .. .. .. | £1,170,000 0 0 |
| Premium Reserve .. .. .. .. | 369,248 9 11 |
| Balance of Profit and Loss Account .. .. | 52,986 15 3 |
| | £1,592,235 5 2 |

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|---|---|
| 894 new Policies were issued during the year, assuring .. .. .. .. .. .. | £214,819 0 0 |
| The new Premiums on which amount to the sum of .. .. .. .. .. .. | 29,572 1 5 |
| The claims sustained during the year, including 16 endowments, were 296 in number, arising under 397 policies, and the sums payable, after deducting re-assurances, amounted, with bonus additions, to.. .. | 346,122 4 4 |
| The income for the year of the Life Branch from premiums and interest amounted to.. | 471,407 15 7 |
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## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Financial Committee of the Senate on Monday decided by eight votes to four to recommend the House to insist on its amendments relating to seminary scholarships and the Catholic Faculties of Theology. M. Ferry had urged the committee to waive all the budget amendments rejected by the Chamber. The Chamber of Deputies approved the principle of the Cattle Duty Bill by 289 to 184, and the duty of £1 per head on oxen instead of 12s. by 273 to 216.

It is announced at Paris that General Brière de Lisle has established a blockade of Pakoi by French gunboats. The remnants of the Chinese army of Kwang-Si are in the neighbourhood of Lang-chau, while the Yunnan army has withdrawn in the direction of Thuan Quan. It is added that General Brière de Lisle is preparing for fresh operations against the enemy.

Admiral Courbet has established himself off Gutzlaff, and is subjecting the north coast of China to a rigorous blockade with seven cruisers and three gunboats, which are continually on the watch to give chase to any vessels that attempt to pass. The *Liberté* states that the Chinese Government has offered to enter into negotiations with the French Government for the conclusion of peace negotiations. The French Government has, however, declined to agree to an armistice.

ITALY.—Signor Mancini replied at considerable length to four questions which were put to him in the Chamber on Tuesday respecting Italy's foreign policy and the understanding between other Powers. Questions concerning the Red Sea and the Mediterranean he declared to be perfectly legitimate, for Italy had a colonial policy, which was one of civilisation and peace. Even is she had wished, Italy could not remain an indifferent spectator of the colonial activity of other Powers. An expedition would be sent to the Congo as soon as the Red Sea expeditions were completed. An envoy would be sent to Abyssinia to draw closer the bonds with that country, while England assured them the freedom of the port of Massowah for the importation of their goods. In reply to a question whether the Government had concluded agreements with England, Signor Mancini said:—

"After the fall of Khartoum we did not think it fitting to offer our aid, for that might have wounded the pride of the noble and powerful English nation; but Count Nigra was instructed to intimate that if we were appealed to for our co-operation in the Soudan, we were ready to take our part in the civilising mission undertaken by England. The reply of England could not have been more kindly or more cordial. While thanking us for our offer, the British Government declared that at that moment England could and must be sufficient to herself. Since then our relations with Great Britain have been marked by the utmost friendliness. Italy is not impatient; particularly as, when the Government decided on co-operating with England in the Soudan, the season was not the right one for beginning operations. The Government have not entered into any engagements, nor will they undertake any without the authority of Parliament."

Signor Mancini went on to declare the assumption that an estrangement had taken place between Italy on the one hand and Germany and Austria on the other to be quite unfounded. "In all our negotiations with England," he said, "we took care to make it clear that Italy could enter into no engagements which were contrary to the agreement concluded with the two empires." With Turkey the relations of Italy were on a regular footing. "Reassured," said the Minister, "by our loyal declarations, the Porte has relinquished the policy of hostility towards Italy which was suggested to it."

Signor Ricotti, Minister of War, stated that Italy was in a position to support her action in Africa by despatching fifteen or twenty thousand men at a day's notice.

The *Standard* correspondent says that at the request of the German Government Cardinal Jacobini on Thursday forwarded new proposals for the settlement of the difficulty about the seminaries:—

"The Vatican proposes that the Government shall have a surveillance of clerical education as regarding the instruction which the State requires to be given, while the Bishops shall be authorised to impose a special examination on theology and the functions of the Confessional, and shall be empowered to refuse confirmation to such as fail to satisfy it."

The Irish Roman Catholic Bishops are to be in Rome on April 6—*i.e.*, during the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland. It is said that the Pope has hinted that he would be well pleased if the Bishops deferred their journey.

RUSSIA.—M. Lessar, who has come to this country to assist M. de Staal, the Russian Ambassador, in the negotiations taking place between the Russian and English Governments for the delimitation of the Russo-Afghan frontier, has stated in an interview with a correspondent that there had been no forward movement of the Russian forces after the appointment of the Commission until an advance had been made by the Afghans, and that after a second advance by the latter there was a corresponding movement on the part of the Russians, made for the protection of people who had been scared by the Afghan invasion, and whom the Russians thought needed their protection. At the same time he believed there would be a peaceful solution of the question, and when that was effected the Russian and English people would know that the rivalry between the two countries was replaced by a complete and satisfactory arrangement, and the anarchy and disorder which now existed in the territories under consideration would disappear.

GERMANY.—In the course of a discussion in the Reichstag on the Steamer Subsidy Bill on Saturday, Prince Bismarck said the members of Parliamentary groups whose ideal could only be realised by war ought not at any rate carelessly and without proper ground to go upon describe the relations of Germany with friendly Powers as jeopardised. The dispute with England had been settled, and he (the Chancellor) could assure the House that he would not have sent his son to England to pick a quarrel.

After eight hours' debate on Monday the Reichstag adopted by 170 votes to 152 the proposal to subsidise a steamship line to Australia, and rejected by 166 to 157 the clause for subsidising a West African line. A vote of 4,000,000 marks was agreed to for the Australian and East Asian lines, and a subvention was also voted for a branch line between Trieste, Brindisi, and Alexandria.

Several capitalists at Berlin have undertaken to form a company for working the Angra Pequeña possessions of Herr Lüderitz. The directors of the East African Society, which lately received a charter from the Emperor for the territory, nearly equal in extent to the kingdom of Prussia, acquired by it between Zanzibar and the lake system, also announce that between this and the 1st of May next they are prepared to receive subscriptions in sums of 500m. and 1,000m., to the extent of 500,000m., on the understanding that for every single mark thus paid the subscriber shall be entitled to about two acres of arable ground. The *National Zeitung* recommends caution to all those who may be tempted to invest their capital in this dazzling land of African promise.

It is announced that that portion of the northern coast of New Guinea which has been placed under German protection is to be called Kaiser Wilhelm's Land, while a newly discovered harbour north-west of Port Constantine and a bay near it will respectively be known as Friedrich Wilhelm's Hafen, after the Crown Prince, and Prinz Heinrich's Hafen, after the Crown Prince's sailor son.

A terrible explosion occurred on Tuesday night at the Camphausen coal mine, near Saarbrück, on the productive coalfield of the Saar. The cause of it was a sudden and most destructive explosion of firedamp. At the time of the accident 219 miners, men and boys, were underground. Of this number only thirty have been rescued. It is believed that the others, 189 in number, have all been killed.

AMERICA.—General Grant's condition is unchanged. The physicians now give him stimulants. He suffers from insomnia, in addition to his previous maladies.

The Irish Emergency Fund is shrinking rapidly; only £5 were received last week.

In consequence of a contemplated reduction of wages on the railways controlled by Mr. Jay Gould, the *employés* on 10,000 miles of railway have struck. At present perfect order been maintained and popular sympathy is with the men, whose wages are thought to have been forced down to too low a point. The Governors of Kansas and Missouri, with their boards of Railway Commissioners, have been arbitrating, and at their suggestion the old rate of wages has been restored, the officials promising that no change shall hereafter be made except after thirty days' notice.

The United States Senate having passed a resolution to the effect that General Barrios, President of Guatemala, should be prevented from carrying out his scheme of annexing the neighbouring Republics, Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State, has written to the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee declaring that the United States Government refuses to countenance any measure subversive of the free autonomy of any Central American State.

A telegram received at New York from Mexico states that the Secretary of the Interior has declared that the Mexican Government had no intention of involving itself in the Guatemala affair, beyond taking measures for the protection of the frontier. A despatch from Panama, *viâ* Galveston, states that the firing on the town ceased at nine on Monday evening, when the rebels retired. The British gunboat *Heroine* landed seventy-five men on Monday to protect property. Railway traffic and business are suspended, and great excitement prevails. A second attack of the rebels is expected. President Arosemena has taken refuge on board the *Heroine*. It is reported that the rebels have occupied Colon. The commander of the American warship *Galena*, at Aspinwall, reports that a revolution has broken out there, and that he has landed a detachment of marines and hauled the vessel alongside the dock in order to protect property. The Panama Governor-General at Carthagena has made an apology to Captain Curtis for the attack made upon him and a boat's crew of her Majesty's ship *Canada* on the 23rd ult.

SOUTH AFRICA.—The *Times* has received the following telegram from its correspondent at Durban: Some inter-tribal fighting has occurred in Basutoland, attended with a certain loss of life. This led to the summoning of a national pitso, at which the principal chiefs, Letsea, Masupha, and Jonathan were present. The property of recalcitrants was declared to be confiscated. Letsea insisted upon the payment of the hut-tax. The general result of the gathering seems to have been pacific. The Boers who have been granted farms in Zululand are to take up their lands by the 1st of May next, each being equipped with waggon, oxen, firearms, and ploughs. The natives in Central Zululand still steal cattle from the Reserve; but with this exception the condition of that territory is quiet. There are fair prospects of peace in Bechuanaland.

INDIA.—Before the adjournment of the Legislative Council of India *sine die*, the Viceroy emphatically denied the statement circulated in England that the Tenancy Bill had been rushed through with indecent haste in order that himself and members of the Council might hurry off to Simla, and further that the Bill had been forced through by the dead weight of the official majority.

Sir Peter Lumsden is reported to have arrived at Herat, where every effort is being made by the Afghan authorities in order to repair and strengthen the fortifications. According to a letter dated Askabad, Feb. 24, military stores and troops were being sent daily towards Merv, the latter being blessed before leaving by the priests and exhorted to fight valiantly against the enemies of the Czar. Another letter from Sarakhs, dated March 2nd, says a small party of Cossacks lately attempted to pass through the Zulfikar defile into Afghanistan, but were prevented.

The Indian Budget, which was published in the *Calcutta Gazette* on Wednesday, states that the year 1883-84 showed a surplus of £1,387,496. This was partly due to the increase of revenue over expenditure; but largely it was due to the collection of more than half a million sterling of land revenue in that year which would have ordinarily fallen to the following year. Another accidental cause of the surplus was that the sum of £325,000 had been removed from the revenue accounts under the orders of the Secretary of State for India in connection with the Indus Flotilla and the Sind, Punjaub, and Delhi Railway. The revised Estimates for 1884-85 show a deficit of £716,200. This is partly owing to the unexpected payment of land revenue referred to above, and partly to the suspension of the collection of land revenue in the year under review to the amount of £343,900, on account of the partial failure of the monsoon and the consequent damage to the crops in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras. A further cause of the deficit is the great falling off during the year of the railway receipts, in consequence of the stagnation in the wheat trade. It is stated, for example, that the East Indian Railway receipts were £418,800 less than the estimated amount; and the Customs revenue fell off more than a quarter of a million rupees, owing to the depression in the rice trade. On the other side of the account, the expenditure was increased because the opium crop was much larger than expected, and therefore took a larger outlay. Finally, a sum of £118,500 was applied to the construction of frontier railways. For the coming year, 1885-86, the revenue is estimated at £72,090,400, and the expenditure at £71,582,300, showing an estimated surplus of £508,100. It is pointed out, however, that the realisation of this surplus depends partly upon the state of trade. If there should be not only good crops, but also a rise in the prices of wheat and rice, the railway returns would be better, and consequently the revenue would improve. Furthermore, it depends upon the rate of exchange. Lately, as our readers are aware, owing to the fear of the repeal of the Bland Act, there has been a marked fall in the price of silver, and consequently in the Indian exchanges. In consequence the value of the rupee is taken for the coming year's Budget as low as 1s. 7d. It is possible, of course, that the exchange may fall still lower, which would trench upon the surplus, or might even convert it into a deficit. On the other hand, if the price of silver rises, the surplus may be increased. Lastly, the Budget takes account only of peace expenditure. If there should be war, or if the Government should be forced into a large expenditure upon strategic railways and in preparation for war, the result of the year might be quite different.

M. Ferdinand Dubois, of the Société Aëronautique of Paris, and a Belgian gentleman named Farenza, on Saturday ascended in a balloon near Antwerp, intending to proceed towards Brussels. They were, however, carried out to the coast, and Sunday was spent over the sea. Land was sighted at dusk, but the aëronauts feared to descend in the dark, and on Monday morning they came down safely near Bromley, but very much fatigued.

There being no probability of the Danish Folkething arriving at an agreement with regard to the Budget, which by law should be disposed of by the 1st of April, the Left party have moved an address to the King, declaring that the House relied upon his Majesty's wisdom to find a solution of the conflict between the Government and the Folkething.

In consequence of a rumour of the introduction of new machinery into the Government cigar manufactory at Madrid, some 2,000 women and girls employed there, after wrecking the furniture, breaking the windows, and destroying the machinery, barricaded themselves inside. They repelled the police, and assaulted the Governor of Madrid, who sent for the military and the civil guards, who dispersed a large crowd of roughs and male relatives of the women rioters. Many of the rioters were hurt; and one officer and eight police were injured by missiles hurled by the women inside the factory. After a siege of nine hours the women parleyed with the authorities, and were allowed to disperse.

Signor Moscatelli has been captured by brigands at Nazzaro, twenty-eight miles from Rome, but released on payment of 5,055f. by his family in place of the 40,000f. (£1,600) originally demanded as ransom. The brigands were afterwards captured by the Carabineers and the ransom recovered.

A bronze statue of an athlete, upwards of 6ft. high, has been discovered close to the gardens of the Colonna Palace at Rome. It probably belonged either to the Baths of Constantine or to Hadrian's Temple of the Sun, which stood near each other at that corner of the Quirinal Hill. A series of valuable inscriptions was found at the end of January close to the Porta Salara, and seven marble sarcophagi have been dug up in the same locality. A fine marble portrait statue of a Roman lady, sculptured in Parian marble of the rarest quality, has been discovered near the Scala Santa. A Greek inscription states that it was erected to an intelligent mother-in-law, by her son-in-law Eubouleon. The face only is that of Eubouleon's mother-in-law, the original face having been sunk sufficiently to permit of the features being altered. The lettering on the plinth and the manner in which the face and hair are carved would indicate that this alteration was made in the first half of the third century, while the statue utilised is a fine work of about the time of Hadrian, if not earlier.

The two brothers Rothschild at Frankfort-on-the-Main have recently declared their incomes for the purpose of taxation—the elder brother, Baron Mayer Karl, at £228,000, and the younger brother, Baron Willy, at £237,000.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, M.P., was present on Saturday at the presentation of his portrait, painted by Mr. H. Herkomer, to his daughter, Miss Williams Wynn, by the members of the Wynnstay Hunt, some 400 of whom subscribed to defray the cost. The portrait was presented by the Hon. Edward Kenyon, the oldest member of the hunt.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

## THE NILE EXPEDITION.

Monday night is said to have been the quietest our troops at Souakim have had for some time past. A few Arabs were detected approaching the lines, but they were promptly sent back by the outposts. A reconnaissance towards Osman Digma's position was made on Tuesday morning, the force employed being cavalry and artillery. They scouted as far as the mountains, in the valleys of which Osman's chief camp is situated. Several parties of the enemy were seen, one of some strength, which was headed by a sheikh; but they attempted no opposition to the movements of our troops, and the whole force returned to camp without a single casualty to report.

A good deal of grumbling is going on at Souakim at the quality of the camels which are being sent thither from Egypt. On Tuesday, of a complete shipload which came to hand not one was sound, and the majority were hopelessly mangy. All of them have therefore been sent back to Suez. Each of these animals cost, a correspondent says, £25; and people are asking who is responsible for paying such a price, when Berbera desert camels, superb animals, can be bought for £20.

Grave suspicion having been aroused that Zebehr Pasha was keeping up communication with the Mahdi, he has been arrested by the British military authorities and taken on board Her Majesty's ship *Iris* at Alexandria. Zebehr Pasha's son and three other persons have also been arrested at Cairo. Many seizures of papers have been made.

General Graham's force, to the number of ten thousand three hundred and eighty men, advanced from Souakim early on Thursday morning, and made a reconnaissance in the direction of Hasheen. The Arabs abandoned the village and the valley in which it lies as the English approached, but kept up a fire on our men from the rocky eminences on the further side of the valley. Several parties of scouts were attacked, and there were a few casualties. The object of the movement—namely, to gain a knowledge of the position and nature of Hasheen and its wells—having been attained, the troops returned to camp.

General Graham has sent a letter to Osman Digma in which he denounces the barbarous war of extermination which the Mahdi is carrying on as contrary to all the teachings of Mahomet. England is herself a Mahommedan Power, and the war which she is now waging is in no way a religious war, but is undertaken to restore peace and order to the Soudan. The letter concludes by recalling the victories of El Teb and Tamanieb, and Osman Digma is threatened with a still more crushing defeat unless he averts the blow by immediate submission.

A report has been received at Korti that Abu Shama, a sheikh of the Beni Shagiyehs, who has property at Korti, and who fought against the Mudir of Dongola last year, has been deprived of his command at Nasri by the Mahdi, and all his property confiscated, for not having killed a messenger from General Gordon to the English, in December last.

A female slave in the Bazaar at Korti has been recognised by one of Gordon's soldiers from Khartoum. On being questioned, her story turns out to be indeed a strange one. She was the slave of one of the native officers in Hicks Pasha's army. After that force marched into the interior she remained at Khartoum, and lived there as the servant of a widow. When the town was captured she was robbed of everything she had, and was carried off to Omdurman. There she was sold as a slave to one of the Kabbabish Arabs, and by him resold to her present master. She says that all the slaves, women, and children were carried away and sold after the capture of Khartoum, none except men being killed. A fortnight before the town fell there was a severe fight between General Gordon's troops and the Arabs.

The *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Chronicle* have received letters from their correspondents describing the early part of the retreat from Abou Kru across the desert to Korti. Because of the want of transport animals, a large quantity of the stores which had been accumulated for an advance on Khartoum had to be destroyed, the camels which were left with General Buller just before the evacuation of the position at Abu Kru barely managing to carry six days' supply of the simplest provisions and the needful water.

"It was pitiful to see the piles of boxes containing good meat and biscuit and sacks of fine flour, doomed to be thrown into the river; it was even worse to see the boxes of medicine, surgical appliances, and medical comforts similarly doomed. By way of saving something, the men were allowed to take all the bread that had been prepared, and as much oatmeal and bacon as they chose to carry; they had also served out them a ration of brandy, which nearly exhausted the supply—and very vile stuff it was, enough to poison even soldiers, and utterly unfit to be given to sick people. At nightfall as much as could be so disposed of was taken out in native boats and thrown into the deep water of the Nile, but a vast quantity remained, and an attempt was made to fire it in the morning with only partial success. There was enough left to feed 10,000 of the Mahdi's men for a week. Some ammunition was also sacrificed, with many Remington rifles belonging to the two steamers which we had still with us, and which had done such good work under the gallant Beresford. A few Martini rifles and much ship gun ammunition was also thrown over to the crocodiles, while the ship guns were broken from their carriages, spiked, and sunk. The order had gone out to sink both the steamers; but it was countermanded, on the ground that we might be back in a couple of months, and that meanwhile they could be no good to the enemy if we took away with us the eccentrics and the valves and the other delicate parts of the machinery. This was done; but it was with a sore and sorry heart that, when we turned our backs at dawn on Saturday on our Guards' Fort and our strong earthwork, we saw the steamers lying ready to receive the enemy in a very unusual way."

The force having reached Abu Klea, the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* describes how—

"About three o'clock in the afternoon we could see fifty of the enemy's cavalry extended as scouts, in a line two miles long, advancing to the wells from

Metammeh. Behind the horsemen walked and ran twice the number of riflemen. Ascending the hill upon our left front, three-quarters of a mile from camp, I could perceive two or three lines of horsemen and several lines of footmen marching in column on the Arab left, from half a mile to a mile in rear of their cavalry. Our camp was soon active, and the earthworks were strengthened as speedily as possible to prepare for the contingency of an assault. Meanwhile, General Buller sent two companies of the Royal Irish forward upon our right, and afterwards a third company, to check the enemy's advance in that direction. The Royal Irish, who were keen to have their first brush with the enemy, pushed forward nearly eight hundred yards, and sent on a line of skirmishers 200 yards further. As the enemy's horse and foot came on our fellows began to fire, engaging them at 800 yards. There was a little desultory firing, then our men poured in three volleys, the effect of which was to drive the enemy's left away from our right and cause them to huddle back upon their right alongside of their main body, which was still coming on. The fire of the Royal Irish stopped the attempt to turn our right and take possession of the ridges and hills to the west from which they had peppered us a month previously, prior to the battle of Abu Klea. At five p.m., in spite of an occasional turn by Lord C. Beresford with his two machine-guns, the Arabs continued to advance rapidly, making for the dominating crests and hills extending along our left. Every tent was struck, and all our men were at their posts. The rolling ground gave the Arabs good cover, of which they took every advantage. In half an hour more 400 to 500 riflemen and spearmen could be seen running down from the ranges two miles away on our left to gain the foot-hills 1,000 to 1,400 yards north-east of the wady. As many more of them halted one mile away behind a low isolated ridge running at right angles to our front. They had six or seven banners or flags, and all of the footmen wore the white uniform of the Mahdi's army. Carrying their arms at the trail, and jumping and running, the rebel riflemen came down nearer and nearer. Each man moved as if he were a trained skirmisher. Creeping behind ledges and piling stones together to make low walls, they soon got plenty of shelter. We watched them, scarcely caring to waste ammunition at long range."

At half-past five o'clock, the correspondent goes on to say, a furious fire was opened upon our lines.

"The Arabs had the range so perfectly that bullets whizzed, dropped, and struck everywhere. Our men were bade lie down, and till the enemy's rifles got too hot to hold, those of us caught outside without cover had a very bad quarter of an hour. Afterwards all who could got into one or other of the works for the night. The camel lines were in the low ground between the Royal Irish and the Mounted Infantry. The wretched brutes were, as usual, doubly tied down and left to take their chance. After dark, when our fire had ceased and the Arabs' had slackened, I went inside Fort No. 1, General Buller having taken up his quarters there. It was but fifteen yards square, and as there was a large pile of ammunition inside and over 100 men, our sleeping accommodation was rather limited. All lights were ordered out at dark, and no firing was to take place by our men unless the enemy actually attempted an assault. With scant covering and supperless we all lay down upon the ground to wait for daylight. The enemy kept up a well-sustained fire, although it was a cloudy, starless night—the blackest I have seen in the Soudan. A fresh north wind blew, and a slight spatter of rain was felt about midnight. How the Arabs contrived to fire half as well as they did in the intense darkness I cannot imagine. As the night wore on they crept to within 600 yards of our position, with the result of conferring greater safety upon our troops, as the bullets then did not drop so freely into the forts, but buzzed overhead. Towards morning it became extremely cold, and the fire was irregular and weak. We could hear their leaders going about waking their followers and shouting to them to keep on firing. General Buller had double sentries posted, and he and Lord Charles Beresford and the other officers were more or less on the alert all night. The rest of us took what sleep we could. There was but one alarm, and that occurred at 8 p.m., through some of the Royal Irish firing at a native sentinel walking about outside their fort. The crack of rifles and the uproar which naturally followed caused every man of our force to clutch his rifle and rush to his post."

Here is what one of the correspondents says about the sufferings of the camels:—

"With huge gaping wounds and terrible sores from packs and girths, the wretched animals continued to be driven about. An awful effluvia, noxious as a pest-house, exhaled from the wounds of the miserable animals, and has lately filled the air whenever a camel convoy marches. I say nothing of the stench from the countless dead victims which line the route from Abu Kru to Korti. Even as I write the odour from hundreds of these lying outside the entrance to Gakdul makes the approach to this place a sort of running the gauntlet of smells insufferable."

The only lady with the Italian forces at Massowah is English, and is the wife of Count Carlo Maggiolini, a lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Bersaglieri. She is a daughter of Mr. Bruce Pryce, of Duffryn, Glamorganshire, and was married only last July. Lieutenant Maggiolini is at present second in command of the fort of Moncullo, about four miles from Massowah, on a hill a few hundred feet high commanding the route into the interior. When the Italians landed, the fort, with a couple of Krupp guns, was surrendered at once by the Egyptian garrison, who marched out with the full honours of war and returned to Massowah. The Italian garrison, which consists of four officers and 80 men, are amply provided with everything, bread being the only article which seems to be dear, probably on account of its being an unheard-of luxury at Massowah; the price is 1f. a kilo., or about 4d. per pound. Fresh meat, on the other hand, is 60c. a kilo., or less than 3d. a pound. Lieutenant Maggiolini is mess caterer, or *dispensiere*, while the *contessa* (his wife) is to look after the *menage*, superintending the kitchen arrangements and the hospital department, which at the time they wrote was empty. The Italians, with their usual gallantry, speak of her as a heroine, and they write of her "as keeping up the spirits of officers and men, who are very fond of her and full of attentions." The fort contained two houses, one of which has been given up to the young married couple. The heat in February was 30deg. centigrade between 10 and 3, and 15deg. centigrade during the rest of the day. We may add that Lieutenant Maggiolini is himself half English—his mother, the Contessa Maggiolini, being a daughter of the late Mr. Kerrison Harvey, of Bath; while his father, Count Giuseppe Maggiolini-Scarampi, of Mombercelli, represents one of the oldest Piedmontese families, the castle of Mombercelli, near Asti, having been granted to his ancestor by Charles V. in the 15th century. The neighbourhood of Massowah and the district between Massowah and Kassala, as well as the district to the south of Kassala, are well described in a book by the present Surgeon-General, Arthur Myers, of the Coldstream Guards, who went out there in 1874 on a hunting expedition with Sir W. Gordon Cumming and the late Earl of Ranfurly and others, in which lions were bagged right and left, rhinoceroses were killed constantly, and elephants in numbers. Plenty of smaller game, such as gazelle, was found to keep their table supplied.

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Ismail Pasha, the ex-Khedive, has sent the Lord Mayor a donation of £100 to the Gordon Memorial Fund, with an autograph letter, of which the following is a translation:—"*Paris, March* 14, 1885. My Lord Mayor,—I have the honour to forward you a cheque for £100, as a contribution to the Gordon National Memorial Fund. I entertained for General Gordon feelings alike of friendship and esteem, and the death of that eminent soldier has caused me the most profound sorrow, appreciating as I did his signal services to my country and to civilisation in the administration of the Soudan, which I was fortunate enough to entrust to him. Accept, my Lord Mayor, the assurances of my high consideration.—Ismail." The fund now amounts to £7,100.

Miss Gordon, the sister of the late General Gordon, has received the following letter from the Khedive:—"*Abdin Palace, Cairo, February* 24, 1885. Madam,—Although I do not wish to intrude upon the great sorrow which has befallen you in the death of your distinguished brother, the late General Gordon Pasha, yet, as Egypt and myself have so much reason to deplore his loss, I desire to convey to you my heartfelt sympathy in the terrible bereavement it has been God's will you should suffer. I cannot find words to express to you the respect and admiration with which your brother's simple faith and heroic courage have inspired me. The whole world resounds with the name of the Englishman whose chivalrous nature afforded it for many years its brightest and most powerful example—an example which, I believe, will influence thousands of persons for good through all time. To a man of General Gordon's character the disappointment of hopes he deemed so near fruition, and the sudden manner of his death, were of little importance. In his own words, he left 'weariness for perfect peace.' Our mourning for him is very true and real, as is our loss; but we have a sure hope that a life and faith such as Gordon's are not extinguishable by what we call death. I beg to renew to you, madam, the assurance of my sincere sympathy and respectful condolence.—Mehemet Tewfik."

Baron de Malortie sends the *Pall Mall Gazette* the following indignant outburst from Cairo, dated March 10:—

"'I am not ill-treated, I consider, but the Cairo people up here, they are the ill-used. I will accept *nothing whatsoever* from Gladstone's Government. I will not even let them pay my expenses. I will get the King to pay them. I will never put foot in England again, but will (D.V., if I get out) go to Brussels, and so on to Congo. . . . . I greatly fear for Stewart, Power, and Herbin.' This extract from one of Gordon's last letters (dated Khartoum, 26, 11, '84) to a mutual friend speaks volumes, and seems to me the strongest condemnation of Mr. Gladstone's conduct. The underlining is Gordon's, and marks his contempt for a Government that sent him out on the understanding that they sanctioned in advance whatever he would arrange, yet, breaking faith with him from the first, refused whatever he asked for. It is too late now to bewail Mr. Gladstone's Micawber policy, to which we are indebted for every one of the disasters in the Soudan, from Hicks's defeat to Gordon's assassination, from the butchery at Sinkat to those of Berber and Khartoum. Always recognising too late their mistakes, they have, of course, been always too late to rescue, too late to prevent the consequences of their blundering, and England has to pay with some of her best blood and with untold treasure for the blessings of the Gladstone Administration. I am a Liberal, but I ask, Is there no such thing as a public conscience, and are we to condone Mr. Gladstone's bloodguiltiness by keeping him in office, and by allowing him to add new victims to the long list of those whom his miserable policy has led to certain destruction? And in vain does one look for compensations. He has nothing to show but national calamities and political disgrace, while he can flatter himself with having muddled Egyptian affairs so as to make the nation loathe an intervention they hailed with joy after Tel-el-Kebir. But if he has done nothing for Egypt except increasing their debt, their expenditure, and their discontent, and undermining the Khedive's prestige and the authority of his Government, the people of Egypt have the satisfaction of knowing that England has not fared better at his hands, and they are not likely to envy us our interior troubles or our isolated position. Having disappointed France and alienated Russia, having insulted Austria in the person of the Emperor, having ruffled Turkey by presenting Italy with an Ottoman province, and having declined Prince Bismarck's outstretched hand, where is the redeeming point of Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy? and one may well ask, Where are Lord Palmerston's proud days of *civis Britannicus sum*? In truth, there is not another fault to be committed, either at home or abroad."

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No More Gas or Lamp used in Daytime.—Wherever there is a window, skylight, or fanlight, Chappuis' Daylight Reflectors can be adapted. They supersede all artificial light, and are manufactured at prices suitable for either noblemen's mansions or artisans' workshops. Prospectus sent on receipt of two stamps, addressed (J.H.) Chappuis, patentee and manufacturer, 69, Fleet-street, London.

## IRELAND.

The Dublin Corporation have by forty-one votes to seventeen rejected Sir George Owens' resolution for the presentation of an address of welcome to the Prince and Princess of Wales, in favour of a Nationalist amendment, moved by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., setting forth that in consideration of certain grievances the Corporation, while most desirous that no disrespect should be offered to the Royal visitors, should abstain from taking part in their reception.

Just after midnight on Monday had struck, Dublin was paraded by several bands, playing national airs in honour of the festival of St. Patrick. Between the intervals of the music there were cheers for the Corporation and Mr. Parnell, in connection with their action regarding the Royal visit. The customary ceremonial of trooping the colours in honour of St. Patrick's Day was omitted, disappointing an assembled crowd. The changing of the Castle guard was the everyday formal affair. Extra policemen and detectives were on duty.

An extra force of police—175 in number—was drafted into Portadown on Monday. On Tuesday the men were posted in those parts of the town where a disturbance was most likely to occur. The Roman Catholic band was not allowed to leave the Catholic portion of the town known as the Tunnel, policemen being stationed at both ends of the street to prevent their egress or the ingress of non-sympathisers. About midday a disturbance was created by some girls of the Protestant party and some members of the Tunnel party. Mr. George Locke, brother of the Deputy Grand Master of the Orangemen, who interfered, with the object of preventing the disturbance becoming serious, was struck with a stone, and at the same time a publichouse owned by a Protestant named M'Kinlay was wrecked. Protestant bands paraded other parts of the town, but no further disturbance occurred. By order of the magistrates the publichouses were closed throughout the day.

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## KING MTESA.

The King of Uganda, whose death we announced in our last issue, was, for Africa, a remarkable man, probably the most notable potentate of purely native origin that the Dark Continent has produced. According to the estimate of Colonel Grant, who, with Speke, was his guest twenty-three years ago, Mtesa was probably not more than forty-eight years of age at the time of his death, and, having succeeded his father, Suna, in 1857, he had reigned twenty-eight years. The Waganda have the names of thirty-five kings who have reigned down to the time of Mtesa in regular succession, and this, as Colonel Grant points out, may probably account for the "blue blood" and vanity which certainly ran in the veins of Mtesa. This vanity (says the *Times*) comes out in all the narratives we have from foreign visitors—Speke and Grant, Stanley, and Wilson and Felkin. It was excusable in a potentate who had probably never been a hundred miles from home, and who had never come into contact with any greater power than his own, to send ambassadors to the Queen of England, and to believe their reports of the insignificance of the British Empire as compared with Uganda. Probably, however, no other native African Prince, not even the Muata Janvo himself, has been able to organise a State so completely and make so great an advance towards civilisation as the King who has just died and his predecessors. Colonel Grant, who knew him well, speaks of him in terms of real respect, and his estimate is essentially supported by such men as Sir Samuel Baker and Mr. Stanley. We have all read the latter's long, interesting, and dramatic account of his many conversations with Mtesa about civilisation and Christianity. As we know, the result of Mr. Stanley's visit was that Protestant missions were established in the country. Facts, which may be read in the pages of the travellers we have mentioned, show that Mtesa was capable of taking a real interest in matters far outside the range of the ordinary savage mind. His army, wonderfully organised and disciplined, Mr. Stanley estimates at 125,000 men, and his fleet at 500 canoes. The population of Uganda proper is probably about a million, but with the neighbouring dependent territories about three millions. The capital is finely situated on the slopes of the north shore of Lake Victoria Nyanza, from which a broad path leads up to the Royal quarters. It is gratifying to learn that there have been comparatively little violence and bloodshed at the change of monarchy. It used to be the custom at the coronation for a new king to sacrifice his brothers, a custom which the latter evidently regarded as perfectly natural. What all the outside influences have been that have had a civilising effect on Uganda before it was discovered by Europeans we do not know; what they have been since we do know pretty fully, and the results so far have been on the whole good.

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## THE JEWISH RACE.

At a recent meeting of the Anthropological Institute a paper on "The Race-Types of the Jews," by Dr. A. Neubauer, was read, in which the writer observed that the opinion that the Jewish race have kept their blood unmixed is based chiefly on the fact that a Jew is almost at once recognised amongst thousands of others. From the earliest times, however, we find evidence of intermixture. Abraham's son Ishmael was the offspring of an Arabian woman; Joseph married an Egyptian, and Moses a Midianite; David was descended from Ruth the Moabitess; Solomon was the son of a Hittite woman, and he himself had foreign wives. We are often reminded in the Bible of the non-Jewish women who came in contact with the Israelites, and undoubtedly the "proselytes" increased the mixture of races by marrying Jewish women. At Rome the conversions were numerous, and, of course, the converts frequently married Jews. Evidence was also adduced of intermarriages in later times between Jews and Christians of various races. The differences between the Spanish-Portuguese Jews and the German-Polish Jews were so marked that in the middle ages they were believed, by the Jews themselves, to have descended from different tribes—Judah and Benjamin respectively. The Italian Jews, however, both in features and habits, stand between the rough German and the polished Spanish Jews, and there is no evidence of any systematic emigration of the various tribes. The pronunciation of Hebrew words also varies, and this variation is believed by Dr. Neubauer to be due to the influence of the language spoken by the surrounding peoples. The difficulties of obtaining accurate measurements of Jews are very great, and but few skulls have been examined. All evidence, however, goes to disprove the existence of any pure Jewish type, uninfluenced by contact with the nations amongst which they dwell.

Mr. Joseph Jacobs read a paper on "The Racial Characteristics of Modern Jews." After enumerating the various classes of Jews now existing, the inquiry was limited to the biostatics and anthropometry of the Ashkenasim Jews, who form more than nine-tenths of the whole number. Their higher rate of increase and superior vitality are probably due to social causes, and therefore only secondarily racial. An indication of racial influences is, however, found in the fact that mixed marriages between Jews and Christians are infertile. Jews enjoy no immunity from any special diseases, but they are more often colour-blind, blind, deaf, and insane than others, owing, perhaps, to their life in cities and to their frequent intermarriages. Jews were then shown to be the shortest in stature of all Europeans except the Magyars, and to have the narrowest chests. Their skulls are mostly brachycephalic. An examination of over 100,000 Jews showed that they have darker hair and eyes than those of any nation in northern Europe, though nearly one-fifth of the Jews have blue eyes and they have nearly twice as many red-haired individuals as the inhabitants of the Continent. A number of composite photographs of Jewish boys, prepared by Mr. Galton, were exhibited to show the Jewish type, and were compared with early representations of Jews in Assyrian art. The Jewish face was said to be a combination of Semitic features and Ghetto expression. Turning to the question of the purity of the race, Mr. Jacobs pointed out that this depended on the number of proselytes made by Jews in ancient and mediæval times. The earlier proselytes, before the foundation of Christianity, were mostly fellow-Semites and would not affect the type, while the numbers made afterwards were too small to modify the race, owing to the infertility of mixed marriages, and the tendency of the offspring to revert to the Jewish parent. A considerable number of Jews, the Cohens or descendants of Aaron, were not allowed to marry proselytes, and must consequently be tolerably pure. The general conclusion reached was therefore in favour of the purity of the Jewish race.

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# Imperial Parliament.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

Lord Salisbury observed that on Friday night Mr. Gladstone in another place made a statement that an agreement had been entered into, the effect of which was that neither the Russians nor the Afghans were to advance beyond their present positions. There was considerable doubt as to the date of that agreement, and he wished to know whether it was contracted recently—last week, or before that time. Another question was the duration of the agreement, and he wanted to know how long it was to last. The third and most important question of all was whether the Afghan Government was a party to it. Lord Granville believed Mr. Gladstone's statement to have been:—"It is agreed between Russia and England that no further advance should be made by the Russian or the Afghan forces respectively to points within the debatable or debated ground." Mr. Gladstone spoke on the strength of telegrams from the British Ambassador, the last of which was dated March 5. To obviate the possibility of misapprehension, he had telegraphed this message to St. Petersburg, and asked Sir E. Thornton to ascertain whether M. de Giers agreed that the assurances contained in the telegrams referred to constituted an agreement to the effect stated by Mr. Gladstone. In these circumstances he abstained from going further into the question at present.

In answer to Lord Sidmouth, Lord Northbrook stated that there had been correspondence between three of the Australian colonies—Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia—and Her Majesty's Government as to the formation and maintenance of a colonial naval force, and the Agents-General of these three colonies had acknowledged the readiness with which the Admiralty had entered into the project. There was no objection to the production of the correspondence. Lord Carnarvon advocated the giving ships of the colonies and their officers a higher recognition by putting the former in direct connection with the ships of the Admiralty and giving the latter commissions from the Sovereign. Lord Derby thought that until the meeting of the representatives of the colonies had been held it would be premature to discuss details. A motion by Lord Sidmouth for the correspondence was agreed to. On the motion of Lord Carnarvon, a return was ordered of the number and distribution of Her Majesty's forces in the Soudan. Lord Wemyss moved an address to the Crown thanking Her Majesty for having accepted the offer of military service from New South Wales, and expressing the satisfaction with which the House had heard the announcement that the like loyal offers from other colonies and also from India would, should occasion arise, be duly accepted. Lord Norton pointed out that what the colonies had done in this instance was nothing new. A century ago the same feeling was shown, and the mother country at that time received colonial support in the field when fighting the French and acquiring new territory. The people of the colonies offered their assistance as fellow subjects, and as such the thanks of the Sovereign and of Parliament should be given to them. Lord Bury cordially supported the motion. Lord Derby, on the part of the Government, readily accepted the motion, which when telegraphed to the colonies would be highly appreciated by the colonists. He was glad that the offers from the native Governments of India were included in the address. Her Majesty's Government regarded these offers as of great importance on various grounds. Lord Salisbury observed that there was in this country a very strong feeling of satisfaction at the conduct of the colonies referred to in the

motion. The people of these colonies had by their offers shown that they were worthy of the race of men from which they had sprung. The motion was agreed to. Lord KIMBERLEY moved a resolution declaring that all expenses incurred on account of native forces of India by reason of service in the Soudan and Nubia should be defrayed by moneys provided by Parliament, and that all expense of replacing such troops in India, should it be necessary to replace them, should also be defrayed. The motion was agreed to. Their Lordships rose at twenty minutes past six o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

Mr. GLADSTONE, answering questions from Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT and Sir H. WOLFF as to the situation on the Afghan frontier, said that when he informed the House that the agreement—or, as that was rather a fallacious term, he preferred to call it the "arrangement"—was that no further advance on either side would be sanctioned, he spoke on the faith of assurances received from St. Petersburg, the latest of which was dated March 5. In order to remove any possible misapprehensions, Lord Granville had telegraphed to St. Petersburg to learn whether M. de Giers regarded these assurances as an agreement. Of course there had not been time to communicate with the Ameer before this arrangement was made, though it included the positions occupied by the Afghans. Mr. BOURKE, Mr. STANHOPE, and Mr. GIBSON gave notice of questions on the subject for Tuesday. In answer to Mr. BOURKE, Mr. GLADSTONE said that the papers in reference to the Egyptian financial agreement were in course of preparation and would be laid before the House as soon as possible, whatever might happen.

On going into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates, Dr. CAMERON called attention to the system of chartering hired transports pursued by the Admiralty, and moved a resolution characterising the system as unbusinesslike, extravagant, and detrimental to the satisfactory working of home preparations for foreign wars. He complained principally of the expense of the system, and animadverted at length on the delay in the transport of stores to Egypt in the last Egyptian war, and gave numerous instances in support of his contention. Mr. PULESTON, who seconded the motion, also dilated on the evils of the existing system, and recommended that the chartering of hired transports should be left to a distinct and separate department. Mr. SUTHERLAND, in speaking against the motion, having characterised the complaints of Dr. Cameron as being too vague, maintained that the transport arrangements made by the Admiralty were most efficient. Mr. MACIVER argued that the strictures passed upon the Admiralty were not deserved, and Mr. BROWN and Mr. GILES having followed on the same side, Sir J. HAY, as a former Lord of the Admiralty, paid a tribute to the efficiency of Sir W. Mends, the head of the Transport Department. Mr. CAINE controverted the allegations made against the Transport Department, and maintained that the Admiralty shipbrokers, who had been employed by the Government since the Crimean war, had executed their commissions during the last Egyptian war in a perfectly satisfactory manner. The Admiralty, he observed, had paid no more for vessels chartered through the brokers than they had paid to owners direct, and with respect to the alleged delay in the transport of stores, he dealt categorically with the charges brought against particular vessels, and suggested that the delay was due to the extraordinary rapidity with which Lord Wolseley's force moved to the scene of their operations rather than to any negligence on the part of the shipowners. Mr. BARCLAY, Dr. FARQUHARSON, and Mr. GOURLEY continued the discussion. The motion was negatived without a division. Mr. MARRIOTT, who had given notice of a resolution which, owing to the rules of the House, he was unable to move, made some remarks upon the narrow spirit of economy which pervaded the Government in relation to the Navy. He complained of their want of activity and administrative capacity in naval matters, and advocated a suspension of the Sinking Fund in order that means might be provided for increasing the efficiency of the Navy. Mr. CARBUTT commented on our backwardness in providing naval guns; and Mr. W. H. SMITH, referring to a remark of Mr. CARBUTT, denied that he had ever stated that the Woolwich guns had broken down. Sir JOHN HAY, before commencing a long statement on the present condition of the Navy, referred to the manufacture of guns and advocated the institution of a Government gun factory, which should be an independent department. In support of his contention that the Navy was in an unsatisfactory condition, he argued that 33 ironclads, 25 armed cruisers, and 300 torpedo vessels should be added to those now building; while the marine forces, he thought, should be increased to 20,000 men and 7,000 boys. Mr. BRAND stated that the subject of gun-construction was under consideration. He agreed with the suggestion that more guns were required, and said that the Government were anxious to extend the manufacturing capacity of private firms as well as that of their own factory at Woolwich. Mr. BIRKBECK called attention to the inadequate protection provided by the Admiralty for enforcing the provisions of the North Sea Fisheries Convention, and Mr. S. LLOYD asked the Government to remove or mitigate the disadvantages under which navigating officers of the Fleet are placed. Mr. A. EGERTON thought the fullest information with respect to the construction of guns should be given; and Sir H. WOLFF, Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, and others having joined in the discussion, Sir T. BRASSEY replied very briefly, and the House at 11 o'clock went into Committee of Supply.

Sir T. BRASSEY moved the Navy Estimates, and at the outset he paid a well-merited tribute of praise, which was much cheered, to the services of the Navy on the Nile and at Souakim. the total amount to be asked for he stated at £13,090,440, as against an ordinary estimate for last year of £11,645,711. Of this increase £1,154,000 is on the shipbuilding vote, and £173,200 on the works vote. Passing to details and dealing first with the *personnel*, he stated that there will be an increase of 100 officers on full pay rendered necessary by the large squadrons to be kept employed on the China station and in the Red Sea, and there is also an increase in the service boys from 2,500 to 3,100. In addition to the normal estimates it is proposed to ask for 500 officers and men and 500 Marines for service in Egypt. In connection with this part of the subject, he explained various changes which it is proposed to make in pay and pensions for the benefit of the petty officers and men. Besides the force employed on foreign stations, we have in the home ports, in the gunnery, flag, and harbour ships, and in the Steam Reserve, a total force of 13,000, and behind them Marines on shore, 6,200; Coastguard, 4,000; Pensioner Reserve, 1,950; Naval Reserve, 19,500; Naval Volunteers, 1,600. The total *personnel* of the Navy constitutes a force of 86,000, of which 57,000 are on the active list, and the complements of all the ships which can be made ready in twelve months are 68,000. In addition to this, Sir Thomas said we have in the mercantile marine an inexhaustible reserve of skilled officers, artificers, &c., and in the fishing population we had a source from which the Second Reserve could be strengthened as might be desired. As to the dockyards, he pointed out that large additions had already been made to the number of men employed, and efforts would be concentrated on pushing forward ironclads in building. The *Colossus*, he said, was practically complete, and the *Collingwood*, *Warspite*, *Edinburgh*, and *Impérieuse* would be completed in the course of the ensuing financial year. In addition to these, three "Leanders," the *Calliope*, two fast despatch vessels, and two iron gun-vessels would be completed; and in 1886-7 the *Howe*, the *Rodney*, the *Hero*, the *Benbow* (probably), the *Mersey*, and the *Severn*, nine Scouts, the *Landrail*, and six gunboats, in all twenty-two vessels, would be completed. Sir Thomas Brassey next explained the contracts which have been put out for the Scouts and the belted cruisers, and protested warmly against the charges of undue delay which had been made against the Admiralty. The amount of contract work has been increased to £812,000, and the whole scheme of work for the year, dockyard and contract, comprises four ironclads of the first class, five belted cruisers, seven Scouts, five gun-vessels, fifteen torpedo boats, and one torpedo ram, or 14,423 tons of armoured vessels, 6,087 tons protected vessels, and 7,542 tons unarmoured vessels. Into the programme of torpedo boats Sir Thomas Brassey went in some detail, mentioning that the expenditure under this head next year will be £400,000, and explained the measures which could be taken if necessary to utilise the steam launches and pinnaces. After some remarks on the size of the ironclads building, he passed to the programme of repairs, mentioning that the *Devastation*, *Ajax*, *Thunderer*, *Hotspur*, *Rupert*, *Orion*, and *Iron Duke* are now ready for sea. The *Conqueror* is practically finished, and no repairs of consequence are required for the *Inflexible*. As to guns, he said the War Office had undertaken to furnish the heavy guns in sufficient time to prevent any delay in the ships; and of lesser calibre, 101 six-inch, 43 five-inch, and 150 quick-firing guns, besides machine guns, would be provided for, and the total provision for ordnance for the Navy would be somewhat in excess of a million sterling. Next he described the works in progress on foreign stations, and finally dealing with the question, Are the estimates sufficient? he maintained that, though some things might not be perfect, the provision we were making was ample compared with the sums voted in other countries, and that they mght be accepted as sufficient.

Mr. W. H. SMITH commented at some length on the deficiencies in the shipbuilding programme of the past year, showing in the case of each particular ship in progress by how many tons and by what amount of propelling power the actual work done had fallen short of the promises made at the beginning of the year. He dwelt also on the neglect of the Admiralty to push on the building of torpedo boats. A war, even a sudden war, he thought was not impossible, and he believed that the Navy was not adequate for all the services which would be required from it in case of war. After some remarks from Lord H. LENNOX, the first two votes for the men and the wages were agreed to, on the understanding that the Navy Estimates will be resumed at as early a date as possible.

The House then proceeded with the Civil Contingencies Fund and other Civil Service Estimates. A supplementary vote of £8,409 for repayments to the Civil Contingencies Fund, after a long discussion, was agreed to. A vote of £3,532,250 on account and £8,045 for excesses in the Civil Service were agreed to, and progress was reported.

The sitting was characterised by the remarkably close attention paid by the Parnellite members to the money being voted for public services. Mr. HEALY had a brilliant idea of reducing the vote for the Speaker's carriage to the amount of one thousand pounds, but was ruled out of order, the objection not having been made at the proper time. The Parnellites next set their attention to saving the nation's money by refusing payment to Dr. Wheeler, a medical man in Ireland, who had attended a landlord who had been shot. The Irish members wanted to know more about it, but as Mr. Burke, who ordered Dr. Wheeler to attend, shared the fate of Lord Frederick Cavendish, Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN was unable to satisfy their cravings for particulars. Another lively discussion arose on the proposal to redistribute the Irish police force triennially. Mr. PARNELL wanted to know all the details of the scheme, which Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN promptly declined to give. A long discussion ensued, and Mr. PARNELL declared he would prevent Government getting the money unless they pledged themselves the Bill should be non-contentious. Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN gave the required promise, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes past five o'clock.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

Lord BARRINGTON, in moving the second reading of the Roman Catholic Disabilities (Advowsons, &c.) Bill, pointed out that while Dissenters, Jews, or Mahomedans could present to a living in the Church of England if their property gave them a right to such presentation, a Roman Catholic could not. The Universities exercised the patronage attaching to property in Roman Catholic hands. This he regarded as a distinct Roman Catholic disability, which it was the object of the Bill to remove. Lord ORANMORE and BROWNE argued that the Articles of the Church of England showed that there were essential differences between that Church and the Church of Rome, and that though a reform of Church patronage was urgently demanded it was not needed in the direction of this Bill. He moved as an amendment "that this House deems it unnecessary to pass this Bill, awaiting a measure being introduced dealing with the whole matter of Church patronage." The Archbishop of CANTERBURY recognised that there were many anomalies and abuses in Church patronage which must be dealt with; but he was against amending large grievances at small points, and he thought that Roman Catholic patrons ought not to wish for the power of presenting to livings in the Church of England. Lord HARROWBY reminded their Lordships that the Legislature had not given Mahomedans, Jews, and Dissenters a right of presentation to Church livings. Property gave it to such of them as possessed it; but this Bill would legalise the appointment of ministers of one Church by members of another. Lord FITZGERALD, in supporting the second reading, contended that the question was whether Parliament could trust to the honour of those Roman Catholic gentlemen in this country who had livings connected with their estates. The objection was the old one—"Turk, Jew, or atheist, but not a Papist." The Duke of ARGYLL differed from Lord Fitzgerald as to the real question before the House. The right of presentation was a public trust, and this Bill would be a retrograde step as treating such right as distinctly one of property. Lord CAIRNS opposed the Bill as only affecting a very minute portion of a large question. The motion for the second reading was withdrawn.

Lord CAMPERDOWN, in moving the second reading of the Water Companies (Regulation of Powers) Bill, explained that its two objects were—first, to provide that those companies when sending in their demands to consumers should furnish items, and next to provide that they should not be allowed to cut off the water supply of a consumer without authority from a magistrate. Lord BRAMWELL moved the rejection of the Bill. He contended that no case had been made out against the companies, with whom Parliament had entered into bargains which the Bill would set aside. The LORD CHANCELLOR defied the wildest imagination to make this Bill an attack on the rights of property. The first provision of the measure took away nothing whatever from the companies, but only required of them what was reasonable. The second did not take away anything they had, but proposed a limitation of their power of cutting off water by requiring them to obtain the order of a magistrate. Any objection to the details of this latter provision was one for Committee. Lord SALISBURY sympathised with the objects of the Bill, but suggested that the water companies should be heard. It might be reasonable to give them a substitute for their present power of cutting off the supply. This might be done by entitling them to have their rates collected with those of the parish, or by some other arrangement. Lord CAMPERDOWN had no objection to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, providing that the inquiry was conducted without counsel. The Bill was then read a second time, and referred to a Select Committee.

Lord GRANVILLE, replying to questions by Lord SALISBURY, said that the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that the Russian troops would not advance from the positions now occupied by them provided that the Afghan forces did not advance or attack, or unless in the case of some extraordinary reason, such, for instance, as a disturbance in Penjdeh. He also stated that the strictest orders had been sent to the Russian commanders to avoid, by every possible means, a conflict or any incitement to a conflict, and that these orders would be repeated. In answer to Lord BURY, the noble lord stated that as long as an English army was in Egypt we were bound to take such measures there as our military exigencies in that country might seem to require, and Zebehr Pasha had been arrested on our own responsibility.

Their lordships rose at twenty minutes to seven o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

Mr. GLADSTONE, replying to questions from Mr. GIBSON and others, read the reply received from St. Petersburg to Lord Granville's telegraphic inquiries, from which it appears that the Russian Government engage not to advance beyond the position now occupied by them unless in the case of some extraordinary reason—such as disturbances at Penjdeh. At this there was some laughter and cries of "Oh." He added that orders had been given to the Russian commanders to avoid incitement to a conflict. Mr. Gladstone went on to say that the Government accepted this declaration in good faith and as applicable on all points to both sides, and they deprecated further questions on the subject. In answer to Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT, Lord E. FITZMAURICE said that the Russians had not advanced since their engagement not to advance, and the agreement did not in any way involve the ultimate possession of the places mentioned. As to the railway from the Caspian, he could not say how far it had advanced, but he believed it was intended to push it on to Askabad. In answer to a question as to the Egyptian financial agreement from Sir S. NORTHCOTE, Mr. GLADSTONE said a declaration had been signed that afternoon, and the Convention would be signed to-day. The presentation of the papers would be hurried in every possible way, and the Government would be anxious not to lose a moment in bringing the matter before Parliament. Sir S. NORTHCOTE asked that some information should be given of the nature of the agreement without delay, and Mr. GLADSTONE said he would consider the point.

The House then proceeded with the Committee on the Seats Bill, resuming with Clause 8, which divides certain boroughs; and on this Mr. RITCHIE proposed that it should apply to all boroughs possessing two or more members. Regarding the single-member system as a good one, he asked why it should be limited in its application, and professed himself entirely unable to see why it should be made a vital principle. Sir C. DILKE prefaced his opposition to the amendment by remarking that the Government would not be found indisposed to listen to suggestions and amendments, especially in regard to the schedules. As to the point raised by Mr. RITCHIE, he said the Government had desired to interfere as little as possible with the middle-sized boroughs, which neither lost nor gained anything by the Bill; but undoubtedly the proposal to exclude the two-member constituencies from division was a compromise. On this Sir S. NORTHCOTE remarked that it was not a compromised suggested by the Opposition leaders, who were in favour of the single-member system as a means of representing various interests, and it was the Government who had desired this exception, because they were doubtful as to the reception of the principle by the country. Mr. GLADSTONE pointed out that it was a compromise not between parties but between the principles of representation of population and variety of interests. After some further conversation the amendment was negatived by 253 to 44. On the question that the clause stand part of the Bill, Sir J. LUBBOCK said a few words on the subject of proportional representation, the advocates of which, though they deplored the results of the Bill as it stood, did not intend to press their idea further on the House, but would renew the struggle in the country. Sir H. VERNEY and others opposed the clause, but ultimately it was agreed to. On Clause 9 (division of counties), Mr. PICTON moved an amendment providing that no person shall be entitled to vote in more than one division of a county, and Sir C. DILKE objected to the amendment that it was opposed to the general framework of the Bill, although personally he was in favour of the principle. Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, who also opposed the amendment, protested against this line of conduct, and in the conversation which followed Lord G. HAMILTON declared that such language would tend to undo the settlement which had been arrived at. Mr. PICTON being, on the contrary, quite satisfied with Sir C. Dilke's language, was ready to withdraw the amendment, but it was negatived without a division. On Clause 10 (qualification in divided boroughs), Mr. FIRTH moved an amendment to provide that persons removing from one metropolitan borough to another should not lose their vote; but Sir C. DILKE opposed it, on the ground that it must be applied to the whole kingdom, and Sir S. NORTHCOTE pointed out that it would destroy the domestic character of representation. Mr. BRYCE and Mr. LLOYD also spoke, and the proposal was negatived on a division by 138 to 19. The subsequent clauses up to 25 were agreed to, and Clause 26 was postponed. On Clause 27, which provides for the disfranchisement for ever of voters who were scheduled as having been guilty of corrupt practices at certain elections in 1880, Mr. RAIKES proposed to limit the period of disfranchisement to seven years. Mr. MONK, Mr. H. TOLLEMACHE, and Mr. ARNOLD objected to perpetual punishments, and supported the amendment. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out that in framing this clause the Government had followed precedent, but if the Committee wished to accept the amendment the Government would not oppose it, and ultimately the amendment was accepted. Mr. ROGERS, in order to meet a well-known flagrant case, proposed to add to the penalties of the clause perpetual incapacity as a candidate, but the ATTORNEY-GENERAL objected to legislate to meet particular cases, and the amendment on a division was negatived by the narrow majority of 90 to 77. Clause 26 was provisionally agreed to on the understanding that it will be brought into conformity with the amended provision of Clause 27. The clauses of the Bill being now disposed of, the Committee then took up the new clauses. A clause proposed by Mr. AGNEW, requiring that the polls for a divided county shall all be taken on the same day, was negatived by 155 to 62, and Sir E. WILMOT moved a clause restricting the numbers of the House to 658. Sir C. DILKE opposed the clause, and Mr. RAIKES, in supporting it, pointed out various modes in which, by grouping boroughs, &c., the additional members for Scotland could be obtained. Sir S. NORTHCOTE thought the increase of the numbers of the House the easiest and the least objectionable method of effecting the object. Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, however, entirely disagreed with these views, and argued strongly against increasing the numbers of the House. Sir C. DILKE pointed out that the clause was in direct opposition to the compact, and after further discussion it was negatived by 149 to 47. A new clause moved by Mr. CAUSTON, requiring that all borough elections should be held on the same day, was not pressed to a division, and the Committee then adjourned.

Colonel STANLEY moved the re-appointment of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the Commissariat and Transport services, and mentioned that, being chairman of the Committee last year, he did so as the organ of that body. Lord HARTINGTON, in declining to assent to the proposal, pointed out that the various departments were fully occupied with the campaigns now going on, and that Lord Wolseley and other officers whose evidence would be required were not at present available. Dr. Cameron, Colonel Milne-Home, Sir H. Fletcher, Mr. Brown, Mr. Carington, and Dr. Farquharson continued the discussion, and, on a division, the motion was negatived by 68 to 49.

After some further business, the House was counted out at half-past two o'clock.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, being questioned by Sir S. NORTHCOTE as to the Egyptian financial agreement, informed the House that the Convention was about to be signed, and he engaged at half-past five to put the House in possession of the main features both of the Declaration and the Convention. He added that papers would be distributed on Monday, and on Thursday he hoped to be able to move a resolution. Accordingly, at half-past five, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made his promised statement. In the course of a preliminary review of the facts, he reminded the House that some time ago all the Powers had agreed that an Egyptian loan was necessary, which the Controllers placed at eight millions, and the necessity of suspending the Sinking Fund had also been generally admitted. Passing rapidly over the failure of the Conference and Lord Northbrook's mission, he stated that, in the prolonged negotiations which had occurred since, the Powers had agreed that the normal administrative expenditure of Egypt, including £200,000 for the army of occupation, was £5,237,000, and also that the sum to be raised in taxation should be £9,000,000. The Powers also agreed that foreigners should be taxed, and that two years should be given during which we should make exhaustive inquiries as to the revenues of Egypt. During that period there is to be a deduction of 5 per cent. from coupons and of ½ per cent. from our Suez Canal shares, subject to repayments if the result of our inquiries should show that the revenues of Egypt would bear it. If at the end of that time a continued deduction from coupons is necessary, the Khedive is to summon an International Commission, like that of 1880, to make further inquiries into Egyptian finance. The maximum amount of the loan is to be £9,000,000, and the British Government, though not requiring any guarantee, is willing to concur in an international guarantee at the request of the Powers, on the model of the Anglo-French guarantee of the Turkish Loan of 1855, on the

understanding that it does not involve any power of international interference. It is to be a joint and several guarantee of interest amounting to £315,000 annually until the loan is paid off, and the difference between that sum and the interest on a maximum of nine millions is to constitute a Sinking Fund applicable strictly to this purpose. There is also a further provision that Delegates of all the Powers shall hold a meeting before the end of the month to frame an Act, on the basis of Lord GRANVILLE'S, for the free navigation of the Suez Canal. The instruments for giving effect to these arrangements are a Declaration, a Convention, and a decree which the Khedive has engaged to issue, and finally the CHANCELLOR said he hoped that the papers would be in the hands of members the same day, and the diplomatic correspondence very shortly.

During the greater part of the afternoon the House again discussed the Seats Bill, and commenced the consideration of the schedules. On the first schedule, which enumerates the boroughs to be disfranchised, Mr. MORGAN LLOYD and Colonel MILNE HOLME endeavoured unsuccessfully to obtain the omission of Beaumaris and Berwick-on-Tweed, and Sir R. PEEL made a similar motion for the purpose of making an appeal to the Government to allow the ancient town of Tamworth to give its name to a county division, which Sir C. DILKE promised should have careful consideration. The rest of the afternoon was spent in a discussion of the Scotch grouping system, and a number of burghs were added to the schedule of disfranchisement with the view of subsequently reforming the groups.

After some other business, the House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

Lord CARLINGFORD, in moving the second reading of the Poisons Bill, explained that its object was to make better provision for the restriction of the sale of poisons. By the Bill the powers now vested in the Pharmaceutical Society with regard to poisons by the Act of 1866 would be transferred to the Privy Council, which department would have authority to make additions to the schedule of poisons annexed to the Bill. Only duly qualified persons would be allowed to sell poisons, and they would be obliged to keep a record of the sales of poison made by them, with the names and addresses of the persons to whom they sold such drugs. The vendors would not be allowed to sell poisons to any one under the age of seventeen, or to any one not known by or introduced to them. Patent medicines were not dealt with by name in the Bill, but they were treated in it as regarded poisonous ingredients like all other medicines. After a short conversation, the Bill was read a second time.

Lord DE ROS asked whether any powers existed for the prevention of persons calling out in the public streets sensational matter which might or might not exist in the newspapers which they offered for sale. Lord DALHOUSIE replied that there was no Act of Parliament to prevent persons from calling out newspapers and their contents, but it was open to any one who had paid money for something which he did not receive to prosecute the person who had obtained that money by a false pretence.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH reviewed the Egyptian financial question at some length, with the view of showing that the action of Her Majesty's Government in this matter had been disastrous. He argued that the Dual Control had at least had the advantage of making France the co-trustee of England in respect of Egyptian finances, and that the logical extent to which the policy of abolishing that Control ought to have been carried was the annexation of Egypt by this country and the guarantee by England of the Egyptian debt at a reduced rate of interest. He proposed a resolution condemnatory of any arrangements, either political or financial, with the other Powers which might impair or diminish the influence of England in the administration of Egypt, such as the acceptance of any form of loan to the Egyptian Treasury under a joint guarantee of the Powers. Lord GRANVILLE suggested that their Lordships would discuss the noble Duke's motion, which was a vote of censure, at a great disadvantage if they did not wait till they had in their hands the Convention and other documents relating to the proposed financial arrangements. Lord SALISBURY concurred with Lord Granville, but stated that it was not the fault of the Opposition that there had not been an earlier discussion of this momentous question. The motion was withdrawn.

Their Lordships rose at 20 minutes past 6 o'clock.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE, having asked for information as to the Easter holidays and also whether a longer time than until Thursday next would be allowed to the House to master the voluminous papers on the Egyptian Financial Agreement, Mr. GLADSTONE said his original idea was that the Easter holidays should be from the 31st inst. until Thursday, April 9. As to postponing the debate on Egyptian finance, considering the urgency of the matter, he thought delay would lead to serious inconvenience. But he saw no objection to taking the debate on Monday week, and would give a final answer to-day. Sir S. NORTHCOTE, however, intimated that this would not meet the requirements of the case. Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT having asked whether the Government adhered to Lord KIMBERLEY'S statement that Zulfikar Pass, Akrobat, and Pul-i-Khisti are within the Afghan boundaries, Mr. GLADSTONE replied that it was not a proper question to put, and he declined to answer it. Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT thereupon appealed to the Speaker whether he was not the judge of the propriety of a question, and the SPEAKER replied that it lay within a Minister's discretion to decline to answer a question, but if there had been anything out of order in this question it would not have been allowed on the paper.

The motion to go into Supply on the Army Estimates led to several preliminary discussions. In the first place, Mr. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT called attention to the reported "jamming" of the machine guns and the Martini rifles during the late Egyptian campaign, and Mr. BRAND, in reply, said with regard to the machine guns that no complaints had been received at the War Office or the Admiralty. As to the Martini, possibly the sand might have interfered with its action in some cases, but the War Office was ready to take any measures which might be recommended by the military reports on the subject. Sir G. CAMPBELL moved a resolution condemning the employment of British soldiers in the deadly summer climate of the Soudan and the taxation of the British people for the benefit of the Egyptian bondholders, which Lord HARTINGTON maintained was not germane to the occasion, inasmuch as the expenditure on the Soudan was not in these Army Estimates, but a supplementary estimate to be moved hereafter; and it was negatived without a division. Mr. W. H. SMITH called attention to the inadequacy of the defences of our military ports, and touched specially on our deficiencies in the matter of submarine mines. Lord HARTINGTON, in reply, referred to the measures which are being taken in this department, and with regard to the general question, he said that when a reasonable degree of finality had been attained, the Government would not shrink from making any demands on Parliament which might be necessary. But there was no need for panic or alarm, and he believed that the means of defence were equal to any attack likely to be made. Colonel STANLEY, while agreeing generally with Lord Hartington, denied that there could be any finality as regards our colonial defences, and discussing the present system of our home defences pointed out the extreme importance of their being maintained in a thorough state of efficiency. Lord E. CECIL drew attention to the delay which had occurred in fortifying mercantile harbours, and Sir H. VERNEY questioned the efficiency of the guns in use at naval ports. Sir H. MAXWELL was of opinion that the defences of our possessions on the north-west coast of America were not adequate, and complained of the system of stoppages to which soldiers were subjected. Mr. GOURLEY also spoke, and Colonel MILNE-HOME and Captain HERON-MAXWELL having also commented upon the subject of stoppages, Sir A. HAYTER pointed out that to alter the system would involve a very large additional expense unless pay was reduced, which he scarcely thought would be approved by the Army.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and Lord HARTINGTON in moving the Army Estimates stated at the outset that they were only provisional and did not represent the full demands of the year. These it would not be possible to state until the materials for framing the vote of credit for the Souakim expedition had come in. But these estimates, in addition to the ordinary charges, provided for an army of occupation in Egypt of 6,000 men and £500,000 for the Bechuanaland expedition, but there was nothing for the Nile or Souakim expedition, or for the railway to Berber. The ordinary estimates had been increased from £15,900,000 by supplementary estimates and votes of credit on account of Egypt and Bechuanaland to the sum of £18,847,600. The present estimates were for £17,820,700, which showed an apparent decrease of £1,269,900, but in reality, as he explained, there was an excess of over a million on ordinary services. After giving details of the variations in the votes Lord Hartington dwelt next at some length on the progress of recruiting, stating generally that during the year 1884 35,000 men have been raised, which provides for the waste, and leaves a gain of over 7,500 men. As to organisation, although it had been found impossible, owing to the emergencies of the service, to carry out Mr. Childers's scheme in its entirety, it had worked extremely well, and never before, he maintained, had it been possible to send out so large a force and maintain it for a considerable time without delay and without dislocating the service. Dealing with this point he mentioned that we have now in the Soudan eight battalions with Lord Wolseley besides two on the line of communications—three battalions of the Guards and three of the line with General Graham, and four battalions and a-half in Egypt, in all 20½ battalions, with an establishment of 16,400 and an effective force present with the colours of 15,900. In addition to these we have four-and-a-half battalions in South Africa, with an establishment of 3,700 and an effective force of 3,490. He then referred at length to the report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting, and said in regard to the quality of the recruits there was every reason to believe that the service was becoming more popular as a profession. Having explained the details of the additions to the regimental establishment of 1,665 he passed to the Militia, the annual training of which he showed had gone on improving for the last three years, the number of recruits being last year 41,980, and he mentioned that the men belonging to regiments embodied had responded to the call made on them very creditably. As to the Volunteers, the number of efficients is now 208,000, with a proportionate increase in the number of qualified officers and non-commissioned officers, and, as the force is now being provided with the Martini-Henry, alterations in the conditions of efficiency are contemplated with a view of improving the shooting. Next he dealt with the vote for stores, which, including war and ordinary service, shows an increase of £945,000, on which he showed that a considerable increase was necessary owing to the fact that the large demands for the Navy had starved the Army department. But the vote included £75,000 for heavy naval guns and £350,000 in addition to previous votes for naval ordnance generally. It also includes £155,000 for the armament of the colonial coaling stations, and, in addition to the sum of £67,000 to be contributed by India and the colonies, £198,000 is taken for works, submarine mines, &c., for colonial defence. As to the defence of commercial harbours, he said he would state his views on the Fortification Vote. In the usual desultory discussion which followed the statement, Colonel STANLEY expressed a general approval of its main features, and hoped that ample opportunity would be given hereafter to discuss the votes. Mr. CAUSTON brought before the notice of the Committee the claims of the quartermasters, and General ALEXANDER, criticising the various branches of the service, argued in favour of long service and an increase in the strength of the Guards. Sir A. HAYTER, in reply to Mr. CAUSTON, referred him to the improvement in the position of quartermasters effected by the Royal Warrant of 1881. Sir W. BARTTELOT protested against the spirit of economy which led to the depletion of home regiments for the increase of those employed abroad, and, while advocating the maintenance of a larger Army, laid special stress upon the importance of adding to the efficiency of the cavalry. Lord A. PERCY dealt with the causes of the discontent in the Army, and Colonel COLTHURST asked that the system of deferred pay should be discontinued. Colonel MILNE-HOME and General FITZWYGRAM called attention to the organisation of the cavalry. Captain Heron-Maxwell, Lord Burghley, Mr. Tomlinson, and Mr. T. O'Connor also made some remarks, and after a comprehensive reply from Lord HARTINGTON the first two votes were agreed to.

## POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

Lord Randolph Churchill was to leave India yesterday (Friday), and is expected to arrive in this country about the 10th of next month.

The annual dinner of the London and Westminster Working Men's Constitutional Association is fixed for the 23rd of April, at the Criterion, Piccadilly, when Sir Stafford Northcote will preside.

Careful inquiry has (says the *Daily News*) brought to light the fact that an unusually large proportion of the members of the House of Commons have no intention to seek re-election. Should their decision remained unchanged it is expected that considerably more than one-half of the next Parliament will consist of new members.

The Russian Ambassador has, it is stated, received instructions to communicate with the Government in order to inquire into the truth of the report that England had furnished guns and rifles, as well as ammunition, to the Emir of Herat.

On Tuesday afternoon Lord Granville and Mr. Childers received at the Foreign Office Count Münster, German Ambassador; M. Waddington, French Ambassador; M. de Staal, Russian Ambassador; Count Karolyi, Austrian Ambassador; Count Nigra, Italian Ambassador; and Musurus Pasha, Turkish Ambassador. After a brief speech from Lord Granville the various Ambassadors affixed their signatures to the arrangement embodying and accepting the British proposals for the settlement of the Egyptian financial difficulties.

Sir HENRY DRUMMOND WOLFF addressed a Conservative meeting at Portsmouth on Wednesday night. He said that the Government had once more embarked on a speculative experiment in Egypt that was likely to complicate our difficulties more than ever. He was told that we had agreed to guarantee with the other European Powers a loan of £9,000,000. A joint guarantee meant a joint control of Egyptian affairs, which, by our vacillation and indecision, had got into a terrible mess. On the very night that news came of General Gordon's death the head of the Government, the principal culprit, chose to flaunt his unseemly mirth at a roystering farce. Sir Henry pointed out that notwithstanding verbal and written assurances, Russia now menaced the State which alone lay between British India and Russian territory in Asia, and promised to remain in the positions they occupied on a condition which they themselves indefinitely fixed. He referred to the appointment of Lord Derby as Colonial Secretary as suicidal mania on the part of Mr. Gladstone. Our colonies were neglected, and our imperial resources were not husbanded. What were they going to do with a Government who had played ducks and drakes with every interest of the country, and to follow whose failures, blunders, and disasters amounted to quite a new geographical education? They had alienated Ireland, estranged Austria and Germany, were almost at war with Russia, had outraged Turkey, and had only secured the friendship of Italy by giving her a slice of Turkish territory. Ministers were hopelessly divided amongst themselves, and their policy had lowered our prestige and ruined our commerce. What we were now in dire need of was a Government that would sustain the honour, the dignity, and the interests of the country.

Addressing a meeting of the electors at Louth on Wednesday night, Mr. JAMES LOWTHER disputed the opinion of those who held that foreign affairs were of secondary importance, and beneath the notice of a free and enlightened people. It was of no use burying our heads in the sand and ignoring current events. He had always held that the science of diplomacy was to make as many friends and as few enemies as possible, but it could not be said that our national policy had of late been to that end. It had rather been in the direction of alienating every ally which we had in 1880, at which time there was not a single European Power that was not entirely friendly to us. In Lord Beaconsfield's time our relations with Russia were never so strained as now, and that eminent man could not be accounted as weak-kneed in his utterances towards that State. Germany and Austria had also been alienated, and especially that ancient ally of this country—the Sultan of Turkey—the head of that nation which had been described by the head of the present Government as the one anti-human specimen of humanity. Now, by this alienation we were deprived of the aid of the half-million of trained soldiers she could furnish us with; by the alienation of allies we were reduced to our own resources, with the help, he was glad to say, of our colonial empire. We had incurred the hostility of other Powers and the general contempt of humanity. Passing on to review the policy of the Government in Egypt, he said he found himself in accord with Prince Bismarck, who had declared that the true policy of this country was to act in cordial alliance with the Sultan of Turkey. But to do that the ill-considered utterances of Midlothian would have had to be reversed. The expedition sent a year ago, despite the boundless courage of its component parts, had been a failure, and a much larger expedition and expenditure had to be incurred. Yet, strange to say, the very Minister who was now despatching troops to the Soudan was the man who said that the tribes against whom the operations were directed were rightly struggling to be free. Such utterances were damaging to the interests and policy of this country. In fact, the time had come when inquiry must be made as to whether the promises of peace and retrenchment had been fulfilled. Passing to the question of free trade *versus* protection, Mr. Lowther declared that the protection of British interests—both industrial and agricultural—was a matter of absolute necessity.

Mr. DIXON-HARTLAND, addressing a meeting held on Wednesday night at the Public Hall, Uxbridge, said he was one of those who looked with equal envy to the time when the English name was respected abroad under a Palmerston as under a Beaconsfield, and he appeared before them as a Conservative only because he believed that that party alone would uphold the honour of the country. He would ask his hearers and the people of this country whether they would again return to power the party which was a party of words and not of deeds—a party which had inscribed "Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform" on its banners, and which had made more useless wars and spent more useless money than any other Government this country had ever had. It was the vacillation and indecision of the present Ministry which had led to all our troubles in Egypt and elsewhere, and which had brought us to the brink of a war with Russia. The real fact of the matter was that Russia intended to have our Indian Empire if she could get it, and if we did not make up our mind depend upon it she would get what she wanted. But Russia would not give way to bluster, which she knew was merely words and not acts. War could only be averted by firmness such as Lord Beaconsfield showed on a former occasion; if we were not firm we should drift into war just as we drifted under Lord Aberdeen. With regard to home affairs, Mr. Dixon-Hartland said he belonged to the advanced school of Conservatism. He ranged himself under the banner of Lord Randolph Churchill. He thought the Conservative party must enlarge its borders. It must not have even a suspicion of representing alone the territorial party; it must take into its fold every interest and every class in the country. He was one of those who thoroughly believed in the new electors. With increased power would come increase of responsibility. The new electors would be as true to the interests of their country as any class in the community, and would refuse to endorse the communistic schemes of Mr. Chamberlain. It was not the first time that doctrines of robbery had been preached to the working classes, but it was the first time that they had been uttered by a Cabinet Minister. Mr. Chamberlain wanted to divide the country into two camps—a town camp and a rural camp; for he believed that the towns would support him, whilst the agricultural interest would oppose him; and therefore his programme was to promote the interests of the towns and destroy those of the country. No doubt agriculture, as well as commerce, was in a low and depressed condition; and he could not but think that that was because we allowed all imports to enter this country without the slightest taxation, whilst foreign nations would receive nothing from us, besides aiding their own manufactures with heavy bounties. What he would like to see would be a duty put upon every manufactured article imported into this country, and the sum so raised given to the abatement of the local burdens on agriculture. This would give the farmers the power of holding their own, the agricultural labourer would earn proper wages, the shopkeepers would be benefited, and the balance, which was at present against the British workman, would be redressed.

Baron H. DE WORMS delivered his annual address to his constituents on Wednesday evening at the Lecture Hall, Greenwich. He commenced his address by briefly alluding to several questions of local interest, and then proceeded to deal with questions of foreign policy, observing that a good and strong foreign policy was all important to the financial prosperity, the commercial interests, and the vital question of the honour of our common country. If the successes obtained at the battles of El Teb and Tamai had been followed up as they should have been the indelible disgrace of the heroic Gordon's death would not have rested on the country, and the vast engagements and enormous expense which we had since been obliged to undertake would have been avoided. He asked why the Government had refused to adopt the shortest route to Khartoum as recommended by General Graham and by Gordon himself, and had elected to take the longest? It was because Mr. Gladstone refused to look facts in the face and kept waiting for something to turn up which might obviate the necessity of an expedition. The same principle which led him to send Gordon alone into the desert led him to abandon that noble Englishman to his fate. Referring to India and the Afghan frontier question, he asked if the present Government had not reversed the policy of Lord Beaconsfield when we accomplished the wonderful march from Cabul to Candahar would we not be in a better position now, and with much less expense, to prevent the Russian advance on Herat? He believed that if an appeal were made to the whole British Empire, including the colonies, who had so patriotically come forward, there would be an overwhelming majority against a policy which, by giving way step by step to the encroachments and demands of every foreign Power, would, if allowed to continue, vitally imperil the interests of this country, and reduce it to the position of a third-rate Power. Having quoted Lord Palmerston's well-known description thirty years ago of Russian policy in Central Asia—"moderate language and disinterested promises at St. Petersburg and London, and active aggressions by its agents on the scene of its operations"—the hon. member proceeded to show that this very policy was pursued at the present day. He traced the stealthy progress of Russia from Merv, 700 miles from Herat, to her present frontier, less than 90 miles from that city, which was the key of India, and pointed out that 50 miles of that advance had been made since the delimitation commission had been agreed upon. He criticised with great severity the vacillation and weakness of the Government in dealing with this subject, and observed that British credulity and Ministerial funk were only to be weighed in the same scale with Russian duplicity and Russian assurance. Mr. Gladstone's Government might be described as a Government of "shift and drift," shifting every responsibility, and drifting like a ship without rudder or steersman against every rock in the way, destined ultimately to bring about her destruction. He believed that if when Russia first began to advance towards Merv the British Government had put down its foot and said, "We know that your object is to imperil India, and we tell you that if you advance one step further it will be a *casus belli* between the two countries," he believed had that been done the danger now threatening would have been averted. The hon. gentleman concluded a speech of an hour and a half's duration amidst loud and prolonged cheering.

Mr. PARNELL, M.P., presided on Tuesday at a dinner at the Westminster Townhall. In proposing the toast "Ireland as a Nation," he predicted for his country happier times than those she had seen. But they should not neglect the development of their national resources. Some of the chief Irish manu-

facturers had told him that they found their best markets in England. This was not as it should be; but there were reasons, apart from the apathy of their own people, which rendered their progress as a nation in Ireland difficult and arduous. They were encircled by a system of government of a most extraordinary kind. Apart altogether from the criminal administration of Ireland—criminal in more senses than one—by Lord Spencer, the secret inquisition, the Crown Prosecutors on the bench, the hired informers, the whole system of criminal investigation under which Ireland laboured at present—they had a civil administration of a most extraordinary kind likewise. They had a number of boards in Dublin. Taking the case of the Board of Works, he instanced the failure of the State-erected harbour at Arklow, and the triumphant success of that constructed by local effort at Wicklow. This he held to be a proof that Irishmen were able to manage their own affairs better than Spencerian boards. The English minority in Ireland had set up a system which denied to the people all power and control over their own affairs, and sought to destroy the life and spirit of the nation. The English would not give anything to Ireland out of justice or righteousness. They would concede to them their liberties and rights when they were made to, and no sooner. He felt the utmost confidence in the near success of their cause. He did not pretend to predict in what way the rights of Ireland would be ultimately gained. It was not for him to say to what extent those rights would be won; but a man in his position ought to consider this. He ought to be careful that in whatever he said or did there should be nothing to hamper the people in their march for their liberties.

Mr. Goschen has written to the president of the City of Ripon Liberal Association in reply to their vote of censure for having voted against the Government in the recent division on the Soudan question. Mr. Goschen protests against the theory "that election as a member of a party imposes on the person elected an absolute obligation to give no vote 'hostile to the party' on any question which the Government of the day declares to be vital, during the whole course of the Parliament to which he is sent." He proceeds:—"In the recent debate Mr. Gladstone appealed to the decision of the House of Commons on a previous vote of censure as effectually disposing of the charges brought against the Government at that time. An appeal of this kind would be fictitious and inconclusive if, as your resolution seems to imply, it were a breach of trust, a deviation from political duty, for any member on such an occasion to vote otherwise than with his party. I am sure that no member of the present Ministry, if he were in an independent position, would accept so enslaving an interpretation of the duty of party loyalty. But let me call attention to one other point. As far as I am aware, while censure is readily meted out to those Liberals who voted against the policy of the Government on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion, no similar reproofs have been administered by party organisation to those who voted against it on the motion of Mr. John Morley. Yet in substance the course advocated by Mr. Morley and his supporters was a direct reversal of the policy of Ministers, while the course which I sought to urge upon them was only a development of that policy. It will be said, no doubt, that Mr. Morley and his friends are pardonable, because they only voted against the Government on an issue on which it was in no danger of being defeated. Is the principle, then, to be this, that it is allowable to vote against your party when—but only when—it is certain that such a vote will not place them in a minority, however great and permanent the indirect damage which it may inflict? Was it no 'disparagement' to the Government that when it had just escaped defeat by a narrow majority of fourteen some seventy members of that majority immediately afterwards voted against it on another motion dealing with the same question, as if to prove beyond a doubt that the policy of the Government on that question had no absolute majority in its favour?

Sir F. Milner, M.P., has written a long letter to Mr. Chamberlain expressing regret that the right hon. gentleman, instead of seizing the opportunity of making the *amende honorable* in the matter of the Aston riots, should have declined to accept the recantation of Caughtry as correct, and should actually have taken advantage of the privilege of Parliament to repeat the libel for which Larry Mack was suffering imprisonment. Mr. Chamberlain writes back:—

"I must be permitted to doubt whether you possess the experience and qualification necessary for the impartial discharge of so great a task, and I must add that in my opinion your interference has hitherto been ill-judged, and has not promoted the objects you had in view. Many of the statements in your present letter are inaccurate or incomplete, but in order to reply to them it would be necessary for me to review all the circumstances of the case, and in this way to open up a controversy which has already provoked much ill-feeling on both sides in Birmingham, and which the action of the local leaders was intended to terminate. As no public object is to be served by such a course, I must decline to follow you in the discussion to which you invite me."

Sir Frederick rejoins:—

"It is true that my experience in the House of Commons is a brief one, but this is not a question of Parliamentary experience but of gentlemanly feeling, and my judgment as to your honourable conduct is perhaps as trustworthy as yours or that of any of your supporters in the House. If bad blood has been stirred up it was solely through the steps taken by yourself and your supporters. You assert that many of my statements are inaccurate, but as you do not attempt to show the inaccuracy of even one of them, it rather argues your inability to disprove them. I am content now by publishing our correspondence to let all men of honour judge as to which is in the right."

Writing to the Land Nationalisation Society, in reply to a resolution forwarded to him in reference to the land question, Mr. Chamberlain says:—"I am not in favour of nationalisation of the land, and I have seen no plan for this object which would not, in my judgment, create greater evils than those it is desired to remedy. I advocate legislation with the object of multiplying greatly the number of landowners, and especially stipulating the occupying ownership of small cultivators."

The annual general meeting of the Borough of Chelsea Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening at the Fulham Conservative Club, Shorrolds-road, with Earl Cadogan in the chair. After the formal business the following resolution was proposed by Mr. W. Hayes Fisher, candidate for Fulham, and unanimously passed, viz.:—

That in the opinion of this meeting the course adopted by Her Majesty's Government with reference to foreign affairs has been most disastrous to the interests of the country and calculated to permanently weaken its position among the nations of the world; further, that the leaders of the Conservative Party should be most respectfully urged to use every endeavour to depose the Government, which has forfeited the confidence of the country.

The official career of Mr. Herbert Gladstone seems almost to have been designed to illuminate the law as to the vacation of seats by the acceptance of "offices of profit under the Crown." In August, 1881, he was appointed a Junior Lord of the Treasury without a salary, but, following a doubtful precedent set by Mr. Gladstone in 1874, Mr. Herbert Gladstone declined to resign his seat, on the plea that an office the profit of which was waived was not an office of profit. It is now, however, announced that, in consideration of his representing the Office of Works in the House of Commons, he receives a salary of £1,000 a-year. If this salary is to be looked upon as attached to the Office of Works, it is a "new office of profit under the Crown" created since the statute of Anne, and not only does its acceptance vacate Mr. Herbert Gladstone's seat, but makes him ineligible for re-election so long as he holds it. If, however, it is to be looked upon as the salary of a Lord of the Treasury, it shows clearly that in 1881 his seat was vacated, because it is an inconceivable state of the law that at one moment the seat is not vacated on the plea that the office is taken and not the profit, and at another on the plea that the profit is taken and not the office. With regard to the penalties which have been incurred, if any one should be sordid enough to look at so interesting a legal development from so gross a point of view, the statute imposes a fine of £500 for every sitting and voting, to be recovered, not by the Crown, as in Mr. Bradlaugh's case, but by "such person as shall sue for the same," and the Statute of Limitation requires the suitor to bring his action within a year from the offence.—*Law Journal.*

On the subject of How best to educate the new electors on Church questions, the Rev. H. G. Dickson, secretary of the Church Defence Association, writes to a contemporary that his experience does not allow him to endorse the opinions expressed by Canon Neville with regard to lectures and addresses—that they are not likely to be well attended. "In many a small town and country village," he says, "a Church defence meeting is a great event, and the hall or room in which it is held is generally crowded, while the lecturer's arguments form the subject of debate and newspaper correspondence long after he has left the place. The fact is that we have no option in the matter, or rather that we have a very plain duty to perform. The 'other side' is making industrious use of the platform, and reaching vast numbers by this means, and the Church for her part must tell the same people the truth as we believe it by the same means. Churchmen all over the country are realising this, and so hard-worked are our lecturers, and so highly are their services valued, that it is now exceedingly difficult to accede to all the applications which are being made to us—a difficulty not likely to be diminished during the coming months. But though I am anxious to emphasise the importance of lectures, I attach an almost equal value with Mr. Neville to the work of leaflets. It would be strange indeed if I did not, seeing that many thousands of them are asked for and sent out from the office of the Church Defence Institution every week. Leaflets if good cannot be too numerous, and I cordially hope there may be a large circulation for those which Mr. Neville recommends."

## THE OLD JAMAICA COFFEE HOUSE.

The *Observer*, in an interesting article, gives a sketch of the history of the old Jamaica Coffee House in St. Michael's-alley, now in course of rebuilding. Under its modern guise it will inherit the ancient traditions and some of the wine-stained furniture also. But the Jamaica as the Jamaica was is gone never to return, and can no more revive the manners to which its predecessor ministered than it can resuscitate the defunct merchants whose guineas, and moidores, and pieces-of-eight flowed so freely into its exchequer. They are gone, and with them has disappeared the West India trade, which concentrated its convivial aspects in the Jamaica Coffee House. Here any afternoon, a century or less ago, might have been met swarthy gentlemen, whose faces were eloquent of tropic suns and old Madeira, in earnest conversation over tierces of sugar and puncheons of rum, hogsheads of tobacco and bales of cotton. Now and then room would be made for an earringed captain, who had a good deal to say regarding himself and his charter-party, the jettisoning of his cargo in the Virgin Gordas, of barratry on the high seas, and of bottomry bonds and bills of lading. At the Jamaica might be met master mariners who were engaged in what was euphemistically known as the Guinea trade, and occasionally a gentleman might be noticed in a wine-stained coat and hat trimmed with a profusion of tarnished lace, who, the stranger would be told with a knowing wink, was suspected of having obtained the cutlass cut over his left eye in a branch of commerce not quite so respectable as the Guinea trade. And at the Jamaica might be learnt the latest intelligence of the Molasses privateer and of the Port Royal earthquake, how Captain Morgan, the buccaneer, was faring, of the last quality ball in Spanish Town, and of the number of deaths by yellow jack at Kingston.

There was a profusion of money at the Jamaica, a certain swagger among the mariners, which recalled the "Keys," and Captain Kidd, and a flavour of colonial vulgarity which afforded infinite amusement when accidentally one of its *habitués* stumbled into Tom's, or Button's, or Dolly's, and got "smoaked" by the wits before he left. But the coffee-house was a very fair reflection of the prosperous island from which it took its name. The Guinea trade, jerked hog, black crab, old Madeira, fried plantains, privateering (to speak of nothing worse), an ample revenue, and the peculiar manners which obtained in a colony where, in the wicked old times, young bloods used to ride alligators through the streets of San Jago de la Vega, where Bath-punch was the beverage, and where admirals gave balls to the brown girls of the capital, did not conduce to external polish. All this is, however, of the past. Business is conducted at higher pressure than it was when the Jamaica was in its glory, and customs are so changed that the bankers might possibly look askance at the paper of a trader who dined at three, and kept the waiter drawing corks for the rest of the afternoon, as was not uncommon among the customers of the Jamaica, when the talk was of the revolt of the colonies, and the disloyal proceedings of Mr. Washington, of Virginia, and even up to a date when some very strong language was applied to Mr. Wilberforce, and the movement with which history has associated his name. The Jamaica was, however, by no means the oldest of its class, and when it is announced that, in common with the quaintly painted windows, the "old mahogany tables at which Sir Thomas Gresham and other merchants sat" will be preserved in the new building, the framers of the report are committing a slight anachronism. Sir Thomas Gresham was dead long before coffee was known in England, and mahogany was not introduced until 1714, or about 135 years after the founder of the Royal Exchange had been laid in his grave. Accordingly, whatever may be the antiquity of the tables in question, Sir Thomas certainly never drank his canary at any one of them.

But even after deducting a generation or two from the legendary customs of the Jamaica, its record is of respectable antiquity. It occupies, or did occupy, a site almost identical with that selected by Pasqua Rosee, the Ragusan, for the Coffee House he opened in St. Michael's-alley in the year 1652. This pioneer establishment became so much the mode that it had many successors, among others the famous Garraway's, which though latterly, like the Baltic and Lloyd's, a kind of exchange, began, and to the end, in part at least, continued to be a tavern. In common with Jonathan's, the Jerusalem, and the Rainbow, it was burnt in the Great Fire; but it seems soon to have recovered, for in 1722 Defoe mentions Garraway's as frequented at noon by people of quality who had business in the city. Swift also refers to it, and it was at Garraway's that Dr. Radcliffe first heard that he had lost 5,000 guineas in the South Sea Bubble, with the philosophic remark that "'tis but going up 5,000 pair of stairs more." Addison tells us that he sometimes passed for a Jew in the assembly of stock-jobbers at Jonathan's, and Mrs. Centlivre lays one of the scenes of her *Bold Stroke for a Wife* in the same place. Every trade and taste had its peculiar coffee-house. Thus corn, tallow, hemp, and oil merchants affected, as they still affect, the Baltic, the American traders, the North and South American coffee houses; and the underwriters Lloyd's, which as all the world knows, has long ceased to be anything but an exchange for shipowners. The Chapter, in Paternoster-row, famous for its punch, pamphlets, and its newspapers, was the favourite meeting-place of booksellers and authors. At Dolly's, Dr. Buchan of the *Domestic Medicine*, prescribed his invariable remedy of a glass of punch, "and two if one was not enough," and here for twenty years Dr. Fordyce ate his dinner of beefsteak, a jug of strong ale, a quarter of a pint of brandy, and a bottle of port, after which he proceeded to lecture to his pupils on chemistry and the functions of digestion. At Dick's might be found the lawyers, when they did not prefer the Rainbow. At the Grecian or Tom's hot-blooded scholars quarrelled over the accent of a Greek word, and poets wrangled regarding metre and number and the relative merits of the ancients. At the St. James's politicians met, and Whig pamphleteers received the ovation denied them in the Tory King's Head. But it was in Great Russell-street and the neighbourhood that the most select coffee houses were situated. At Will's might be seen the great Mr. Dryden, and at Button's Dick Steele was the centre of a circle of admirers. Half the literary history of England, indeed, centres in this neighbourhood and in these coffee-houses. They were free to any with money enough to buy a dish of tea, and whose frock was decent and wig in respectable condition. Here the young scribbler might listen to, and even receive, a kindly word from the great man of letters; and the citizen could mingle on almost equal terms with men whom nowadays he may never see. The result must have been a kindlier life and less class feeling than at present obtains. But even then some of the coffee-houses were select in a way, for the *Spectator* sneers at a luckless wight who came to Will's "upon the merit of having writ a posie of a ring." It may, however, be inferred from the tavern clubs, which soon became common, that the coffee-houses were getting too democratic. The spread of clubs led to the rapid decay of the coffee-houses, until they degenerated either into exchanges or to the squalid places now known by the old name.

## THE FASHIONS.

In the coming spring small patterns, tiny flowerets, squares, and dots are (says the *Standard*) to replace the huge floral designs with which one has become somewhat tired; these are, as it were, thrown on the stuff, not placed close together, but some distance apart, and of bright tints on dull grounds. In embroidered washing materials the ground is usually écru, or greyish blue, and the flowerets worked in ingrain cotton, either blue, red, brown, or white. For lawn tennis dresses the "Regatta Stripes" will be worn, and are sure to prove favourites with young people, as they are bright and pretty looking, the colours well assorted, and they give promise of good wear; a black stripe alternating with stripes of dark and light shades of grey, suitable for semi-mourning, is in excellent taste.

For richer and more costly dresses, Irish poplin will be one of the most fashionable materials of the year—Worth, under the name of bengaline, is using it very largely; and the fact that several of the Princess Beatrice's trousseau dresses are to be made of it will be quite sufficient in itself to cause it to be in increased demand. One of these dresses is to be of ivory-white, with an elaborate design wrought in threads of gold; another of a beautifully soft shade of pale blue with sprays of forget-me-nots scattered over its surface, and a third of cardinal; the texture of these poplins has been brought to the highest stage of perfection, they being special manufactures of Dublin. The bridesmaids, it is said, will also wear Irish poplin, either white or cream. Tailor-made dresses are quite a feature in the trousseau, one house alone having no less than eight costumes in preparation for it. For spring wear, soft woollen materials are being largely used by ladies' tailors, and a tendency to greater fulness is apparent in the skirts. Velvet is to be extremely fashionable this season, both for making entire costumes and also for combining with satin, silk, and woollen fabrics. The idea that velvet is only suitable for winter wear is now quite exploded, and, if one may judge by the extensive orders given by the leading French and English houses, it will continue to be as much, or even more, used as the season advances. As it is at present, it is certainly quite as fitted for summer as the very heavy silks which are considered in good taste all the year round. Velveteens are almost as popular as velvets. The Paris houses have been sending out some very handsome dresses in plain and embossed velvets lately, with, in a general way, simple trains gathered at the top; a black velvet had panels embroidered in silver opening over a narrow tablier of white lace and silver pampilles and paniers of white satin trimmed with silver lace, the low bodice being of satin and lace. White velvet skirts for evening wear, with pearl-studded white llama lace draped gracefully over them, the draperies kept in place with silver thistles and pearl leaves, the low bodice being trimmed with lace and thistles on the shoulders, are another creation of a well-known Parisian modiste. White, not cream nor ivory, velvet is now much affected both here and in Paris for evening toilettes, in combination with lace, or brocaded satin and pearl embroidery. Though short dresses are still very generally worn, the leaning towards the re-establishment of trains for any ceremonious entertainment is apparent, especially abroad, foreigners, particularly Frenchwomen, adopting them very much for evening wear; frequently an easily-attached train is sent home with a new toilette, which can be worn or not, as convenient. With full short skirts, vests rather in the Spanish and Zouave styles are coming into favour, a number of foreign fashion leaders, the Empress of Austria, the Grand Duchess Vladimir, and others having introduced them; they are made in the very richest velvets, satins, silks, and plushes, and most lavishly ornamented with gold and silver braids and laces, jet, pearl embroidery, steel, and even coral trimmings, or thickly-beaded cords; these same cords, though adding greatly to the weight of dresses, have recently been used to finish off with, black costumes having their effect considerably heightened by such ornaments, the cords being heavily jetted. Beads and embroidery, in silver, pearl, or jet, bronze or gold, are more lavishly used than ever, a favourite device being to embroider in beads of some kind or other, arranged in an elaborate pattern, the front or else panels of a stylish costume. Evening toilettes are in particular so designed, and many of them are remarkably effective.

Square-crown velvet bonnets with pointed brims, trimmed with gold lace and *couteaux* or smooth feathers, generally black, tipped with gold, will be fashionable for spring wear. Now that bonnet-strings are again discarded by the chief milliners, it is more difficult than ever to distinguish between bonnets and hats, the difference being so very slight. A new and pretty shaped bonnet has a flat brim, inside which a row of cut jet beads is set, these appearing to rest on the hair; the squarish crown, slightly cut up behind, is nearly concealed by a full tuft of gold-tipped black ostrich feathers, which droop over a velvet satin bow, which, arranged in the form of a half-closed fan, is set up on the left side of the bonnet. Straws of all colours, both for hats and bonnets, will continue to be seen, the colour matching that of the dress; green and red will be favourite colours. Straws of soft green tints, trimmed with tufts of smooth feathers, either of the same or a contrasting shade, are being prepared by the leading modistes. A charming little bonnet is of *réséda* coloured straw, with its upturned brim trimmed with plush of the same shade, a full tuft of short feathers of a darker tint, fastened by a tiny gold arrow, falling over and almost concealing the square crown on the left side, the tips of the feathers resting on the hair. For hats the high crowns are still the best worn, both in straw and felt, and the trimmings—feathers and velvet, plush, or Oriental-looking gold lace being frequently introduced, and with good effect.

The Museum of the Dead-letter Office at Washington contains all such articles as have been improperly mailed, or which are entirely "unmailable." A correspondent, describing the museum, says it has all kinds of curiosities, from Guiteau's autograph to a patent hitching-post. Last year alone 1,300 letters containing articles of value were received at the Dead-letter Office containing nowhere within or without either the name of the sender or the person to whom sent. The gross receipts of undelivered mail matter last year were 4,751,872dols., or more than 8 per cent. increase over the previous year. By improved methods the office manages to get much of the matter either to the people who mailed it or to the people for whom it was intended. But there is a large amount that never gets any further than the city of Washington. Some of the things are sold at auction every winter, and the sale of last year realised nearly 2,000dols. Over 7,000dols. in money was deposited in the United States Treasury as undelivered last year. Under an order first made by Postmaster-General Maynard such useful printed matter as was formerly sold for waste-paper is now annually distributed among the charitable and reformatory institutions for the district of Columbia. Last year 23,152 magazines, pamphlets, illustrated papers, Christmas cards, valentines, &c., were disposed of in this way. For many years the letters found in the mail addressed to Santa Claus or Kriss Kringle were sent to the Dead-letter Office. But seven years ago a gentleman on Capitol-hill arranged that they should be sent to him instead. He has ever since answered each letter whose writer he could trace, and has done what he could to supply the place of the favourite Christmas saint.

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# JOHN BULL.

LONDON, MARCH 21.

## HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

When we went to press last week the anxiety of the country as to the position of affairs on the Afghan frontier had been to some extent allayed by the statement of the Prime Minister that a satisfactory agreement had been entered into between Russia and England which would avoid the imminent danger of war. But, like most of Mr. GLADSTONE's statements, that which he made on Friday week does not by any means convey, when carefully scanned, the impression which it is designed to convey. Certainly, whatever disparaging criticism we may be inclined to pass upon his statesmanship and his patriotism, we must own that he is a consummate master of the art of language, that art which was given to man to conceal his thoughts. On the first blush it appeared to many unsophisticated persons as if we had really got something out of Russia, but on a closer examination the unsatisfactory character of the PREMIER's announcement to which we called attention last week has become very obvious, even to those who were at first taken in by it. Perhaps no more complete exposition of its unsatisfactory character has been afforded than is given by a friendly organ. The *Pall Mall*, which makes up for its hot fit in the Soudan by a very cold fit in Afghanistan, has shown it up, even from Mr. GLADSTONE's own point of view. The agreement transformed by that master of language when he first began to explain it away into an arrangement—a distinction without a difference for less subtle minds—allows to Russia the full benefit of the *beati possidentes* theory. Those who in their simplicity believed that Mr. GLADSTONE had really put his foot down and insisted on Russia's retirement from the debateable ground pending the solution of the question to whom the debateable ground belonged, have been awakened from the fond delusion indulged in by those who, like the Pelagians, do vainly talk. It now appears that when he said that Russia must not, during the pendency of the labours of the Boundary Commission, take for granted that the decision would be in her favour, he only meant that Russia must not trespass on the territory which was admittedly Afghan, whatever might be the result of those labours. This is certainly not in accordance with what he said; whether it was in accordance with what he meant must be left to be decided by those who are equally skilled with himself in casuistry.

But whatever he may have meant in his inner consciousness, there is no question as to the impression which he meant to convey to his hearers. It may, indeed, have argued little for the knowledge of Mr. GLADSTONE which his countrymen possess, that so many of them should have thought that he meant what he said. At first there was a sensation of relief as if Russia had really conceded something, and as if our Ministry had really made up their mind to vindicate the honour of the country. But these fond delusions, vainly imagined, were soon dispersed, and Mr. GLADSTONE has devoted himself during the past week to explaining away his utterances. It seems that Russia, having got what she wanted, is to be allowed to retain what she got on giving an implied promise not to advance any further—a promise which she will keep just as long as it suits her. Indeed, a way of evading it has already been pointed out by Mr. GLADSTONE himself, when he suggests "the case of some extra-"ordinary reason" as a sufficient justification for a further advance by the Russian troops. An extraordinary reason is not difficult to find by a Russian commander, and a more lame and impotent conclusion to this new form of "Hands-off" policy it would be difficult to find. The agreement itself—*valeat quantum*—seems in the first instance to have been evolved from Mr. GLADSTONE's self-consciousness, and Lord GRANVILLE had to send off in a hurry to St. Petersburg to try and obtain from the Russian Minister some confirmation of his own chief's positive statement. Such a confirmation was graciously accorded by M. DE GIERS, who had the less difficulty in doing so as he gave up nothing, but retained everything which he had got by the unscrupulous advance of the Russian commander while Sir PETER LUMSDEN was waiting in vain for the arrival of his Russian coadjutor on the Boundary Commission. Often as Englishmen have been outwitted by Russian diplomacy, no more striking instance of our having been made fools of is recorded. Even the tearing up of the Black Sea Treaties can hardly compare with it. Mr. GLADSTONE's afterthought, that when—in an accidental paroxysm of patriotism which made him for a moment remember that he was an English Minister—he called on his Russian friends to retire, he was acting under the erroneous impression that Russia was advancing into acknowledged Afghan territory, not merely into territory the right to which was still in dispute, will not conduce to his credit, even from his own point of view. If he only meant that Russia might do what she liked with the debateable land provided she did not touch undisputed Afghan territory, what excuse can be made for his unpardonable ignorance, on his own showing—though we venture to doubt if he is not doing himself injustice in alleging such ignorance—as to what was debateable ground and what was Afghan territory?

Meanwhile from Afghanistan itself we have little or no news, and we turn once more to the Soudan for news of war. General GRAHAM made a reconnaissance in force on Thursday, and after some slight skirmishes with the enemy, who abandoned their positions on our approach, returned to Souakim. Yesterday the force marched out, taking with them five days' rations, and after a five hours' encounter with OSMAN DIGMA himself, succeeded in driving him from all his positions with heavy loss. It was without doubt necessary to clear the immediate neighbourhood of Souakim, and to put a stop to the constant and harassing attacks on our outposts of which we have heard so much. But with the abandonment of the combined advance on Berber it seems difficult to see with what object anything like a repetition of El Teb should be attempted at the present moment. Our confidence in General GRAHAM and our gallant soldiers whom he commands is great, and we can little doubt but that they will vigorously follow up their defeat of OSMAN DIGMA. The question will force itself upon our notice, what is to be the result of a victory, however cheaply won? The slaughter of some thousands of the Soudanese, if it is to be merely followed by the scuttling of our troops back to Souakim, will not be matter for national congratulation, though perhaps the Ministry may look to it to tide them over present difficulties. Let us hope that the result may be made permanent, and that the truest and best memorial to GORDON's memory may be found in the completion and the maintenance of a railway from Souakim to Berber, bringing Khartoum into communication with the sea. This would be a great step towards enabling us to hold the Soudanese capital after the MAHDI has been smashed, and to do what we can towards saving those "poor sheep of the Sou-"dan" from the tyranny of the slave-dealer, against which yet more than against the fanaticism of the False Prophet GORDON struggled to the last.

The arrest of ZEBEHR Pasha is a high-handed act, which it will be difficult to justify on any principle of international law. We have, indeed, little doubt that he deserves to be arrested, and that it is a pity that he did not meet with his deserts before this. But, at the same time, it would be difficult to explain under what authority his arrest was effected, and it would certainly have been better to have obtained, as a matter of form, the sanction of the KHEDIVE to it. We have not unfairly been reminded by hostile critics of the case of ARABI, in which such scrupulous pains were taken to act in the name of the nominal ruler of Egypt, and not in that of his protectors. There is little doubt that it would have been a mere formality to have applied to the KHEDIVE to authorise ZEBEHR's arrest, but this is just one of the formalities which it is so desirable to observe as making all the difference between a legal and an illegal act. It is said that the extreme measures adopted were suggested by Lord WOLSELEY, and that there is abundant evidence of a traitorous correspondence between the prisoner and the MAHDI. This is probably true, and the Ministry have an undoubted right to bring it forward as justifying their refusal to send ZEBEHR up to Khartoum when GORDON so earnestly begged that he might be sent. It was, no doubt, a desperate remedy which the General here suggested, and such an application of the hair of the dog which bit him hardly seemed reasonable to ordinary men. But GORDON knew so well what he was about, and ZEBEHR was so obviously the only man who could with any probability of success be set up as a rival to the MAHDI, that it by no means follows that the experiment was not worth the trying from the fact that when it was not tried ZEBEHR threw himself heart and soul into the cause of the False Prophet.

It will be certainly a consolation for us, amid the many troubles which the present Ministry has brought upon us—and we stand sadly in need of some consolation—that not even their blundering has alienated from us the sympathies of our children on the other side of the ocean, while that blundering has afforded to those children a good opportunity of showing their regard for their mother. The good which comes out of evil is in this case beyond question, and though we cannot give either Mr. GLADSTONE or Lord DERBY any credit for it, there is something very grateful to Englishmen at home in the spirit which, called forth by, and at the same time in spite of, Ministerial blunders, has shown itself in various parts of our Colonial Empire. It is no doubt owing to the spontaneous offers of help which have been made to us by the Colonies, that a considerable amount of interest and enthusiasm has been aroused for the scheme of Federation which is the best hope of a Greater Britain, in a truer sense than that in which Mr. GLADSTONE would use the term. It is not necessary that it should centre round the memory of GEORGE WASHINGTON, who, after all, was only a rebel, though a successful one; and the loyalty of Australia and New Zealand rather than the condescending patronage o

the United States, may be invoked as the true basis of a union of English-speaking countries. The great meeting at Cambridge, over which Mr. FORSTER presided, is a decided step in advance in the bringing to a practical result this scheme of Colonial Federation, and it is not without significance that the same week should have been signalised by the visit of the Prince of WALES and his eldest son to the Colonial Institute. His Royal Highness there expressed in admirably chosen terms the feeling with which Englishmen at the present moment regard our Colonies, and, as Lord ROSEBERY observed, when returning thanks to him, it is pretty clear that such a meeting could not have been held ten short years ago.

The Naval Estimates were debated on Monday, and there is certainly little encouragement to be derived from the official statements then made. Sir THOMAS BRASSEY made the best of a bad case, and it is perhaps not too much to say that he showed how well he had earned his certificate as a practical navigator by sailing as near the wind as possible. It may possibly be doubted if he did not go rather too close to the wind in making a statement in reply to Mr. MARRIOTT, of which it has been well said that "though it may possibly be technically "true, it is in reality false." He denied Mr. MARRIOTT'S assertion that the Admiralty had made a demand on the Cabinet to the extent of eleven millions. But it cannot be denied even by a Secretary to the Admiralty that in December last a programme was put forward of expenditure for naval purposes—not confined, indeed, to increased shipbuilding, as Sir THOMAS would have us believe—which amounted to that sum, but has ruthlessly been cut down just one-half. We fear that the effect of the scare, which seemed for a time to have aroused our naval authorities from their apathy, and diverted Lord NORTHBROOK'S attention from the finances of Egypt, has passed away under the pressure of Budget necessities. While under the influence of that scare the First Lord confessed that our Navy was inadequate to the necessities of our empire, and promised to set about an increase of it, which was hailed as better late than never. But the financial necessities of a Liberal Budget have proved too much for him, and the exigencies of Mr. CHILDERS have led the Cabinet to turn a deaf ear to the exigencies of Lord NORTHBROOK. Some compassion may be felt for Sir THOMAS BRASSEY, who doubtless in his heart was bitterly disappointed at the Ministerial resolve when, in accordance with that resolve, he had to revise his statement. But, as usual, the man sacrificed his own feelings to those of the Minister; and while the patriot must have mourned over the folly of such parsimony at such a time, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Admiralty proved equal to the occasion, and did his best to lull the country into a false sense of security which he himself by no means shares.

The Army Estimates had their turn on Thursday, and Lord HARTINGTON explained to a very limited and very inattentive audience the condition of our land forces. It could not, of course, be expected that members should feel as much interest in the state of our land forces as in an Irish row or a "personal "explanation;" but it is a little disheartening to the fervid admirer of our representative institutions to find a subject, always of urgent importance, and at the present moment of vital importance, dealt with in the presence of a beggarly array of empty benches. The statement itself was not encouraging, and having been prepared before the news of the fall of Khartoum, as Lord HARTINGTON stated, and before the news of the Russian advance, as his hearers remembered, it was necessarily of an imperfect character. It was rather curious to note the divergent methods of arriving at the same unsatisfactory result adopted by Sir THOMAS BRASSEY and Lord HARTINGTON. The Admiralty excuses itself for not doing more by enlarging on the rapidity with which what is needful for our national defence can be done when the emergency arises. The War Office excuses itself for not doing more by enlarging on the impossibility of doing everything now that the emergency has arisen. Between the two we see no prospect of repairing the gaps in our defensive armour which stand most urgently in need of repair. When we ask Lord NORTHBROOK to build us more ships, he says that Lord HARTINGTON is going to give us a scheme for fortifying our ports and harbours which will set free the ships which would otherwise be required for the defence of our shores. When we ask Lord HARTINGTON to give us our promised fortifications, he says that they are unnecessary while our fleet remains master of the sea. Between these two stools we are only too likely to fall to the ground, and "what a fall" will be "there, my "countrymen!"

The time of the House of Commons when not engaged in attending to Mr. GLADSTONE explaining his agreed arrangement or arranged agreement with M. DE GIERS, or in not attending to the responsible Ministers charged with the care of our Army and Navy, has been mainly taken up by the Redistribution Bill. A gallant fight was made on behalf of the City of London, whose historic claim to four members has been so ruthlessly disallowed by the high contracting parties to the treaty. As the reduction of its number was regarded by Ministers as an important provision of that treaty, the Conservative Leaders felt unable to support the late LORD MAYOR in his protest, for, as Sir HARDINGE GIFFARD observed, a bargain should be kept in the spirit as well as in the letter. This is not the point of view from which Sir CHARLES DILKE regards the settlement, and he takes every opportunity of intimating his intention only to keep to the letter, not to the spirit, of it. Indeed, we fear that Lord SALISBURY made a mistake in fancying those with whom he negotiated would act as loyally as himself. These could be the only terms on which such negotiations were possible, and if, as now seems pretty apparent, the Liberals are reserving their right to re-open the settlement as soon as they have a new Parliament, it would possibly have been better not to have negotiated at all. It is very probable that the Bill might have been modified in passing through Committee to an extent at least equal to the Government concessions, and we should not have aggrieved the Ulster and the London Conservatives by throwing them over in exchange, merely to secure a postponement for a year or two of some of the most objectionable features of the Government scheme. But the bargain has been made and must be adhered to, as on our side, at all events, the old traditions of Parliamentary honour and political faith have not been abandoned. At the same time, while yielding to none in our loyalty to our Party Leaders, we cannot wonder at the feeling of dissatisfaction among the rank and file which found vent in the meeting held on Thursday at the Carlton.

A very interesting meeting of the Mansion House Committee for a national memorial to General GORDON took place on Saturday, and the Prince of WALES made one of those admirable and felicitous speeches for which he is distinguished. But at the same time we may be allowed to doubt if the special form of memorial which he advocated is altogether the best which could have been selected. A hospital at Port Said is undoubtedly a good thing, but it is in no way specially connected with GORDON'S memory. The hero's own sister is strongly in favour of the money subscribed being applied to another object nearer home, and nearer, as she believes, to her brother's heart. This is connected with our waifs and strays of tender years, in whom GORDON took so deep an interest. Surely, if we cannot devote the fund subscribed to the suppression of the slave trade at Khartoum, which, as we have said above, would be the very best form of memorial to him that could be adopted, it would be better to listen to the cry of the children at home, which never fell unheeded on his ears. At the same time we hope that there will be something of a more strictly personal character in the way of a statue superadded to whatever form of memorial is selected. This we wish not so much for GORDON'S sake, who despised such things—perhaps despised them more than they ought to be despised—but for the sake of future generations of Englishmen, to whom it would be well to have presented some image of our dead hero in his habit as he lived. There is, indeed, always something of a risk—almost more than a risk—in proposing an addition to the number of very unsatisfactory statues which preserve among us the memory of our great men; but in such a case as that of General GORDON it seems almost worth while to run that risk, in the hope that even in these degenerate days the nobility of the subject may inspire the artist to produce something not so unworthy of his subject as most of our public statues unfortunately are.

## SURRENDER IN EGYPT.

Although the diplomatic correspondence that preceded the signing of the new International Agreement on Egyptian Finance will not be published till next week, the general drift of the Agreement itself has been known for some time, and it is only too easy to estimate the consequences which must infallibly ensue from its adoption. The history of the question of Egyptian finance during the last three years is briefly this. On the close of the first British campaign in Egypt the English and French Controllers-General proposed a loan of eight millions, and the suspension of the Sinking Fund, to restore the finances of Egypt. Soon afterwards the Dual Control died a natural death. Under British supremacy the financial situation of Egypt grew from bad to worse, until last summer our Government summoned a European Conference. The Powers were in accord as to the necessity of suspending the Sinking Fund. There was also a general coincidence of opinion with regard to the normal Expenditure, but a considerable divergence of view existed between Great Britain and France as to the proper amount of the general Revenue. The chief point of all, however, discussed at the Conference of 1884 was that of the loan. On the necessity of the loan of eight millions as a measure of financial relief the Conference was unanimous. But a very serious, and indeed vital, difference arose on the question, who was to guarantee the loan—England or Europe. The British Government had been inclined to give way upon the point until the unmistakeable feeling of Parliament and the country induced them to shelve the proposal that other Powers besides England should guarantee the new loan by refusing to yield to France on the question of the Revenue, and so forcing the dissolution of the Conference. On Lord NORTHBROOK'S return from his special mission to Egypt at the end of last year, negotiations were resumed, and have continued ever since until now. As a result we have the new International Agreement, the general upshot of which we have no hesitation in describing as a disgraceful and degrading surrender on the part of Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government.

We shall purposely omit to dwell at length on various items in the Agreement which, however interesting in themselves, only indirectly touch the main point at issue. The normal administrative expenditure of Egypt is fixed at something less than five millions and a quarter, an estimate that includes a wretchedly insufficient sum of £200,000 for the Army of Occupation; taxation is to be extended to foreigners; and the coupon of the Debt is to be "cut" to the extent of five per cent., subject to a possible repayment in two years. But the point of the whole Agreement lies in the provisions relating to the new Loan. The Loan is to amount to nine millions, and the interest on it is to be guaranteed by the six Powers—Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia. "The Powers," said the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER on Wednesday, "proposed to us that the Loan "should be the subject of international "guarantee. We did not ask for any inter-"national guarantee. We were willing to "undertake it ourselves. But neither did we "object to it, provided that it did not involve "international interference in the administra-"tion of Egypt." So the Powers are to help us in guaranteeing the Loan, but they are to leave us alone in managing the affairs of Egypt! That is so very likely, is it not? It is so very likely that a number of States, some of whom are on the verge of bankruptcy, would generously come forward to advance money for the wants of Egypt without claiming any right of interference in return; especially when England was quite able and willing to advance the money by herself. It is so very likely that those who hold the purse-strings should be content to leave to us the sole exercise of authority. It is so very likely that our dear friend Russia, with whom we are on such good terms elsewhere, and our dear friend France, who owes us no grudge whatever, in Egypt especially—to say nothing of other Powers—will abstain from harassing us in our administration of the country. Not only is all this so likely in itself, but we have put it down in black and white, to make it quite certain. We have only consented to the arrangement, "provided that "it does not involve international interference "in the administration of Egypt." Can we imagine a man handing over the control of all his property to an avowed enemy, and stipulating at the same time that the transfer is "not to involve interference" with his affairs?

What does it all mean? That is a question that can be answered plainly and simply by anybody who has the sense to put two and two together. It means that, as Lord SALISBURY said the other day, the European Concert still exists, and that it is hostile to us. It means that we have alienated our friends and failed to conciliate our foes. It means that we have in Egypt so long pursued a policy of shilly-shally—of alternate slaughter and scuttle—of on the one hand trampling on the rights of the Suzerain and on the other neglecting to restore order and prosperity to Egypt, that Europe can stand it no longer, and has said so pretty plainly. Things need never have come to this pass at all. When the Dual Control was extinguished, why did the financial affairs of Egypt become worse? Because the conduct of our Government produced general uncertainty as to the future, bred disorder, caused universal distrust, ruined trade, and banished prosperity. That is the plain and only reason. First we were for settling Egypt; then we were for scuttling out of it; always we were mismanaging its affairs. And so it came about that the other Powers insisted on interposing. The "provision" that they are not to interfere is too transparently absurd to deceive anybody. No doubt our precious Government, fearful of the wrath of the British people, begged and besought that the utterly worthless "provision" might be added, just to save appearances; and we can well imagine the half-scornful, half-amused assent accorded by foreign statesmen to so feeble a proposition. But what we have to say is this—we say it to the Opposition, we say it to the whole country—now or never is the time to put an end to this infamous compact, by which England is to be deposed from her position in Egypt, to be robbed of the fruit of all her sacrifices of men and money, and to be degraded into a mere catspaw of other Powers. We repeat emphatically that the time is now or never. There must be no further delay. Not a week or even a day must be lost in fulfilling the supreme duty of the moment, which may be summed up in the words, Smash the Government.

## SURRENDER IN AFGHANISTAN.

Surrender is the order of the day with Mr. GLADSTONE'S Government. As in Egypt, so on the Afghan frontier. The optimists who thought they detected in the latest development of British diplomacy on the Central Asian question some signs of a change for the better, some signs that Ministers had learnt at last the folly of the Too Late policy, some signs that they were determined on this occasion to uphold vigorously and resolutely the interests of the Empire—the optimists who thought all this have been doomed to disappointment. The valiant despatches to the Russian Government, the highly "significant" observations of Ministers in Parliament, the loud war-trump of the Ministerial organs—above all, the ostentatious military preparations—all were calculated to induce the belief that Ministers really "meant "something" this time. And so the country was to "present a united front to the enemy," statesmen of different political creeds were to stand "shoulder to shoulder," the strife of parties was to be hushed, we were all to combine together to "strengthen the "hands of the Government" at a great national crisis; for the policy to be pursued (the PRIME MINISTER gravely said) was a "national" one, and Lord KIMBERLEY informed the House of Lords that the positions occupied by the Russian troops were situated in territory which the British Government distinctly held to be within the limits of Afghanistan. All this, though it involved grave peril of war, seemed to show that the Ministry was fully alive to the requirements of the situation, that it would be firm in resisting Russian encroachments, and was determined to fulfil faithfully and loyally our engagements towards the AMEER.

Those who took this view had evidently not accurately measured even yet the true character of Mr. GLADSTONE and his colleagues. Others, guided by past experience as well as by a knowledge of the present political situation abroad, knew better than to believe in the firmness of the Government. They were not so easily induced to believe that the recent "reconciliation" with Germany meant that we might count on German support against Russia, or (as we said last week) that we should have the co-operation of two members of the Triple Alliance against the third. And now it is seen which view was correct. Last December our Government demanded the withdrawal of Russia from the positions she had seized beyond the Sarakhs frontier. With this demand the Russians refused to comply, and, as Mr. GLADSTONE tells us, "they founded their answer upon the belief "they entertained that the territory is theirs—"that they claim it as a matter of right." The British Government, on the other hand, "had addressed a requisition to them in the "belief that it was Afghan territory." Of course our Government never had any idea that Russia claimed this territory: will Mr.

Gladstone ask the country to believe *that*? On his own showing he demanded the withdrawal of the Russians without having properly examined the question whether their conduct was justifiable or not. Such weak and empty pretences will not avail to conceal the fact that, after having virtually threatened the Russians with war unless they retired from the disputed territory pending negotiations, Mr. Gladstone has, now that he finds them firmly resisting him, quietly allowed his demands to drop, or, as he himself says, to "lapse." In other words, our Ministers think it best to say nothing more about it, and now confine themselves to seeking what they choose to call an "arrangement" with Russia precluding any further advances on either side. Not absolutely precluding them, however—the Russians are not to advance any further unless they have "some extraordinary reason" for doing so. No wonder the British House of Commons laughed to scorn the Minister who had the effrontery to represent this as a Russian concession.

That is how the matter rests now. Russia is, in fact, left in quiet possession of the disputed district—left to hold territory that we, believing it to be Afghan, have promised the Ameer to protect—left to maintain and strengthen herself in positions which directly threaten Herat, and which Russia only wants to have because they do threaten Herat. The Government still assure us that they are never going to let Russia keep this territory permanently, nor even "for an indefinite time." Certainly not. They are just as positive about it as they were positive in declaring that they would resist the Russian advance, and doubtless with the same intention of sticking to their words in the one case that they had in the other. The whole position is too clear. The Government has really surrendered. However much they might wish to resist the Russian aggression, they are fully aware of the European situation. Their hands are tied. The British Empire has arrived at this pass—that its rulers are everywhere baffled by hostile alliances. For that state of things there is no possible cure but one—the instant overthrow of the Gladstone Cabinet.

## THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

The Radical organs (and some other journals too that ought to know better) have been making the most of a divergence of opinion that has arisen amongst Conservatives with reference to certain points in the Redistribution Bill, and notably on the subject of Irish representation and the partial disfranchisement of the City of London. It is needless to say that this difference of view related solely to the question how far the Reform compact between the Ministerial and Opposition Leaders was binding on the Tory Party as a whole; for Conservatives almost unanimously disapprove of those provisions of the Redistribution Bill dealing with Ireland and the City of London. It is not to be wondered at, nor do we complain, that some members of the Party should take a less strict view than others of the precise extent to which the compact alluded to debars the introduction of Amendments to the Bill. We are unwilling to reopen now the whole question how far it was originally advisable to enter into a compact at all. Most Conservatives who recall the state of affairs at the end of last autumn, and the circumstances under which the agreement between the Government and the Tory Leaders was concluded, will probably concur with us in the opinion which we then expressed and still maintain, that the Conservatives got very much the best of the bargain. To speak of the agreement as an "innovation on Parliamentary privilege" is as absurd as the motives attributed to the Opposition Leaders for entering into it are flagrantly unjust and untrue. What is there to prevent any members of Parliament from negotiating with each other in order to arrive at an understanding with regard to legislation? And what is there in the fact of the negotiators being Leaders of a Party that renders the act of negotiation an "innovation on Parliamentary privilege"? The whole arrangement was simply one of convenience, concluded with a view to avoiding a prolonged contest afterwards. The allegation that there either was then, or that there is now, an attempt by the Tory Leaders to "coerce" or to "muzzle" the rank and file of the Party is, we take leave to declare, wholly and entirely unfounded. The consultation between the Government and the Opposition Chiefs was not entered into without the distinct sanction of the Conservative Party itself, accorded at a meeting specially summoned to consider the question. Opinions may, no doubt, differ as to the merits of the agreement itself; but it is passing the limits of fair criticism to allege that when the Conservative Leaders had "once got into secret council with "Ministers," they were "obliged to accept "almost any scheme the Government proposed," and that Lord Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote were frightened into submission, because they were themselves unprepared to assume office. A writer who makes statements of this kind has evidently forgotten not only what is due to others, but (most of all) to himself. And we may just take the opportunity of saying that the whole of the precious story about a Conservative Mutiny and the threat of "some terrible resignations" is the merest moonshine—like the other precious story of last night about the unwillingness of the Tories to take office, and the existence of a "Party Truce."

On that which is now the only practical question, what is the exact force of the agreement, we feel quite free to express the opinion that it covers too wide an area. At the time it was made it was certainly understood to apply only to the leading and essential features of the Bill, not to its details. We think the Conservative Party as a body is bound only so far, and no farther. Of course the difficulty is always cropping up as to whether this or that provision is "vital" or not. But on some of these points, at any rate, no doubt whatever exists, or ought to have been suggested. It seems perfectly unreasonable to maintain that the partial disfranchisement of the City of London, though unquestionably a most important point in itself, constitutes what may be called a leading feature of the Bill in the sense that it involves a vital principle. The attempt to preserve the City's ancient privileges was, we are convinced, not only justifiable, but absolutely imperative. It is especially to be regretted that Sir Stafford Northcote should have not only voted, but spoken, in favour of a proposal which is notoriously brought forward as a gross and studied insult to the City by the Radical Government. While, therefore, it is beyond question that, with a few dissentients, the Conservative Party specially empowered its leaders to arrive at an arrangement with the Ministry, there is a good deal to be said for the view that Conservatives were left under no obligation whatever in the matter beyond that of assenting to the general principles of the Bill on the Second Reading and abstaining from supporting amendments obviously touching those general principles.

Meanwhile, the letter which Mr. G. C. Bartley, who recently resigned the office of Agent to the Conservative Party, has addressed to some of our contemporaries, complaining of the general policy of the Conservative Leaders, involves some much wider considerations. We shall not presume to question Mr. Bartley's entire right to criticise the policy of our Leaders—a right which he shares with every other man in the country. But we fail to perceive that Mr. Bartley's late position as Agent to the Conservative Party conferred upon him any special title to be heard on questions of Conservative policy, still less to demand that his views upon them should be allowed to over-ride the judgment of the Leaders. The policy of the Party and the organisation of the Party are two wholly distinct matters. In questions of organisation the opinion of the Conservative Agent must always weigh for a great deal, since he possesses special experience in dealing with business of this kind, and enjoys special opportunities for acquiring information with regard to it. But questions of policy are, we submit, altogether outside his province. The claim of Mr. Bartley's services to our grateful recognition must not blind us to the fact that he appears to have put forward pretensions to control the counsels of the Party which it would have been altogether impossible to tolerate. As to his charges against the Conservative Leaders, it will be time enough to reply to them when Mr. Bartley attempts to substantiate them in detail. Nothing is easier than to bring vague accusations of this kind without a shadow of proof to support them. We have ourselves from time to time found occasion to urge that the Party should be led in the House of Commons with rather more vigour and spirit than has now and then been shown. We have plainly said that we thought Sir Stafford Northcote's method of treating his opponents a good deal gentler and milder than their criminal blundering deserved. We have, in fact, desired sharper criticism and bolder attacks. But that is a very different thing from agreeing with Mr. Bartley's charge against the Conservative Leaders, which virtually amounts to one of grave dereliction of duty. The Conservative Party, it need not be said, does not approve these bilious criticisms. It is deeply grateful to its Leaders for the ability, zeal, tact, and discretion with which, under exceedingly difficult circumstances, Lord Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote have managed its affairs, and it is determined to uphold them to the utmost in maintaining the honour and the interests of the Queen and the Country.

## STILL THE NAVY!

We are getting almost to despair of any adequate measures being taken to strengthen the Navy. It is said that, whatever be the shortcomings of the Government, we may rely on "the feeling of the country." What *is* the feeling of the country about the Navy? Has it any "feeling" at all on the subject? Enough has been done, we should have imagined, to arouse its feeling; to lay the facts before it; to point out that our Navy is simply not ready for war—that for us to attempt a great naval conflict, with our Navy as it is, would be little short of sheer madness—that what is needed to put matters on a proper footing is not merely a large expenditure, but a proper expenditure — that it will take great diligence and the lapse of much time to do all that is necessary for the bare security of these islands, to say nothing of the safety of our vast Colonial Empire and the protection of our commerce all over the world. All this has been pointed out to the people *ad nauseam*, and pointed out not in a dry, hard, unintelligible way, full of abstruse technicalities, but clearly, plainly, and in a popular form by hundreds of newspapers which reach all classes of the community. For instance, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which last autumn told the world *The Truth about the Navy*, has now again come forward to enlighten the public on the subject with a most striking and interesting collection of information entitled *The Navy of England: Is it Ready for War?* All we can say is that if the people of England do not know how serious the situation is, it can be due to nobody's fault but their own. They possess all the information available for forming an accurate judgment on the subject. Have they realised the gravity of the position? Perhaps they have; perhaps the whole country is stirred to its inmost depths by these revelations; perhaps the people are fired with a feverish anxiety to know that, at all events, we have entered on the right path at last; perhaps they are smitten with a stern determination to see the necessary reforms immediately instituted and promptly carried out. It may be so; but neither we nor anybody that we have ever heard of have been able to detect the least sign of it.

It is clear to our minds that there could be no greater mistake than to trust in the first instance to what is called the "feeling of the "country." No doubt, all that has been said and written about the Navy has had an effect somewhere; it has produced probably a large number of individual impressions, if it has failed to impress the nation as a whole. How can all these be gathered up into one and welded into a compact body of public opinion? The people, now more than ever, want leading. In the old days, when the national affairs were managed by the educated classes, it was comparatively easy, first, to reach them with arguments, and, secondly, to collect the results into a organised public opinion. The process is much more difficult now. The people, we say, want to be led on this matter of the national armaments. What is the use of a Government that does not lead the people on a question of so great a magnitude as that of the national security? Who can doubt that if Mr. Gladstone, Lord Hartington, Sir William Harcourt, Sir Charles Dilke, and other principal members of the Executive Government had, both in Parliament and out of Parliament, set themselves to tell the people the plain truth, and to rouse them to a sense of danger and of duty, they might have asked what they liked from Parliament with the certainty that they had the whole nation at their back, approving and supporting their policy at every step? The nation never will, we may depend upon it, be fully awakened to its real position until the awakening is effected by the responsible Government of the country. Newspaper articles cannot do it; Opposition statesmen and independent politicians cannot do it. If the Ministry of the day are false and faint-hearted in urging on the people the paramount necessity of providing for the safety of the Empire, no one else can supply their deficiency.

Numerous and overwhelming as are all the other reasons for overturning the present Government, their base and wicked neglect of the primary needs of the country is one of the most cogent and pressing of all. They have just put the finishing touch to the accumulative evidence of their wilful and obstinate neglect, by proving that their promises of amendment are worse than worthless. Last autumn, after their attention had been urgently drawn again and again by all the leading naval authorities to the lamentable condition of the Navy, they responded by promising to take steps to remedy the evil. Most miserably insufficient steps they were indeed—a poor, wretched beginning that it was certain would need supplementing many times over to render it anything like adequate for the purpose of placing the Navy in a state of even approximate efficiency. Four months have now elapsed, and practically nothing whatever has been done, although these men, of all others, knew what was needed, knew how perilous the situation was, knew that fresh troubles were looming in the immediate future which would require every possible effort to meet them. Well may Mr. William Henry Smith declare that the Government have broken faith with Parliament. That is the exact truth; they have broken faith with Parliament and the nation—deliberately, wilfully, and infamously. Neither in this nor in any other respect is there anything to be hoped for from this Government. All other duties of the Opposition are at the present moment merged in the paramount necessity of ousting them from office by any means and at any cost.

## CHURCH PATRONAGE.

Lord Barrington was well advised in adopting the Archbishop of Canterbury's suggestion to withdraw for the present his Bill for the removal of Roman Catholic disabilities in respect of Church Patronage. If the subject of Church Patronage is to be dealt with at all by fresh legislation, it is no doubt better to deal with it as a whole, and not piecemeal, especially in view of the fact that, as the Archbishop pointed out, there is in this case no urgent grievance demanding an instant remedy. But the debate in the House of Lords on Tuesday was marked throughout by a curious inability to appreciate the true bearings of the question. Almost every speaker insisted on the "grave responsibility" attaching to the possession of Church Patronage. Lord Oranmore dwelt at inordinate length on the powerful weapon which this Bill would place in the hands of the enemies of the Church of England. The Archbishop expressed his belief that an honest and upright Roman Catholic patron would feel the greatest embarrassment in disposing of his patronage. Lord Fitzgerald, as a Roman Catholic, declared his conviction that the members of his Communion might be trusted to exercise their patronage with a scrupulous regard to the rights and interests of the Church. The Duke of Argyll laid much stress on the great weight of responsibility resting on patrons, the right of presentation being a solemn public trust.

Now all parties are, we presume, agreed that it is in the highest degree mischievous that the Parish Priests of the Church of England should be appointed to their posts at the mere will and pleasure of patrons who need not be Churchmen at all. We are, of course, quite willing to concede to Lord Barrington that to place Roman Catholics under a special disability is most invidious. If Jews, Turks, infidels, and heretics are to be allowed to exercise the rights of Church patronage, it is very unjust to Roman Catholics that they alone should be incapacitated from doing so. But, on the other hand, it is perfectly monstrous that any persons who are not members of the Church should be permitted to appoint her ministers. Yet it never seemed to occur to any of those who took part in the debate to consider how the evil arose. The existing abuse is not at all due to the principle of private patronage, but has crept in through the action of the secular law courts. The burden of responsibility, weighty as it is, is not intended to rest chiefly on the shoulders of the patrons, but on those of the Bishop. As we have before explained in these columns, the patron's right is not to appoint to the cure of souls, but to present a clerk to the Bishop for institution. In theory the Bishop's right of institution provides against abuses of patronage. But the patron's rights of property, which the law intended to be limited by the Bishop's right of approval, have been asserted by the law courts in a manner that has practically abolished the limitation, and rendered the Bishop's interference nearly obsolete. It is the coercion of the Church by the State Courts that is the true evil requiring a remedy. This we have pointed out again and again. The Bishop's right of institution being forgotten, men have come to imagine that the right lies with the private patrons, and are looking about for a remedy for what they deem the scandal of treating patronage as private pro

perty instead of as a trust. In point of fact, the whole principle of patronage is that it is property, and not a trust. The spiritual trust belongs to the Bishop, not to the patron.

To point out the true origin of the evil is to indicate the right remedy—which is, to restore the Bishop's right of institution to the position of a reality. With its original and proper limitations and safeguards, the right of private patronage is a principle that ought to be maintained. It has worked on the whole exceedingly well, and can only be replaced by something far less desirable. We are not aware that the exercise of public, or even of episcopal, patronage has produced any strikingly superior results; while to give the parishioners a veto on the appointment of their Parish Priest would involve a grave departure from Church principles. The present outcry against the abuses of private patronage does not appear to rest upon any clear and intelligent appreciation of the Church's rights or interests. If it did, our Church reformers would have made an equally vigorous protest against two cognate evils—first, the pretence of a Parliament composed of men of any religion or of none to invest a secular Judge with authority in spiritual causes; and, secondly, the claim of a Prime Minister, who may be of any religion or of none, to appoint the Church's Bishops. These two evils are of a more pressing character than any abuse connected with private patronage.

## FAREWELL TO CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

London will be sorry to lose the presence of an institution which, since the days of Edward VI., it has learnt to regard as peculiarly its own. Christ's Hospital is now to follow in the wake of the Charterhouse and St. Paul's, and to migrate for the most part into the country. It may be sentiment which regrets the change; certainly we cannot reason against it. Christ's Hospital has always been an integral part of the City. It is rich with memories of men of letters, with associations of Stillingfleet and Camden, of Bishop Middleton and Richardson the novelist, of Leigh Hunt, of Lamb, and of Coleridge. Its history is classical: perhaps that of no school is more so. We all know about it almost as well as we know Thackeray's portrait of Smithfield, "old Smiffle," as Pendennis and Clive Newcome fondly called the Charterhouse. Who that has read Charles Lamb's essay on "Christ's Hospital Five-and-thirty "Years Ago" can ever forget the picture of "our "Monday's milk porritch, blue and tasteless, and "the pease soup of Saturday, coarse and choking," of "the Wednesday's mess of millet, somewhat less repugnant (we had three banyan to four meat days in the week)," of "our half-pickled Sundays, "or quite fresh boiled beef on Thursdays (strong "as *caro equina*), with detestable marigolds floating in the pail to poison the broth—our scanty "mutton scrags on Fridays—and rather more "savoury, but grudging, portions of the same "flesh, rotten-roasted or rare, on the Tuesdays "(the only dish which excited our appetites and "disappointed our stomachs in almost equal pro-"portion)"? The week's almanack of the Christ's Hospital boy is almost as well known to Londoners as his quaint old-fashioned garb. Now both will speedily become, if the first has not already become, things of the past.

The *fiat* has gone forth, and the old Hospital is to go, and that quickly. Most, if not all, of the site will be sold—competent authorities estimate its value at not less than £600,000—and the Hospital will be scattered. We gave last week the bare outline of the new scheme; it was enough to show that the Christ's Hospital of the future will be totally different from the Christ's Hospital of the past and the present. The name may survive, but that will be almost all. The two institutions will have no more to do with one another than the *zuccone* which means a vegetable has to do with the *zuccone* which means a simpleton, or, as one of the most famous of the Hospital's sons phrased it, no more than a horse chestnut has to do with a chestnut horse. What it has been we know. It has been an institution—conceived in the spirit of the pious King who heard Bishop Ridley's stirring sermon on charity, and acted thereon forthwith—to keep from sinking those who have yet held up their heads in the world; to keep alive the spirit of a decent household when poverty was in danger of crushing it; to help those who are the most willing, but not always the most able, to help themselves; to separate a child from his family for a season, in order to render him back hereafter with feelings and habits more congenial to it, than he could ever have attained by remaining at home in the bosom of it. This is what it has been, even with the darker side, which came into so fierce a light in the inquiry of 1877, to a spirit so gentle as that of Charles Lamb. Let us see now what it is to be. The essential clauses of the scheme which the Charity Commissioners have prepared for its reorganisation and future administration provide for the support on the Foundation of schools of two kinds, the Hospital Schools and the Day Schools. The former are to be like all Gaul, in three parts—the Boys' School, the Girls' School, and the Preparatory School for boys. This trio are to be for boarders only, and to be situated "within a "convenient distance of the City of London." The latter, the Day Schools, will be two—the one a Science School for boys in the City, probably occupying a portion of the present buildings; the other a school for girls, which is to be not more than three miles as the crow flies from the Royal Exchange. The Hospital Schools are to be adapted for 820 boys and 500 girls, all—of course boarders—and the Day Schools are to be for 800 boys and 400 girls. The Science School buildings are to include "a chemical laboratory and work-"shop fitted with appliances for working in wood "and metal." This scheme, which will assuredly not be Utopian, will provide for the education of 2,320 children; at present the total educated at the cost of the Foundation is but 1,200. Girls will be given almost the same welcome as boys. As there was no distinction of sex in the original charter, so will girls now be placed on a footing nearly equal to that of the boys, instead of their number being limited to the seventy or eighty who have hitherto been educated at Hertford.

There will be, then, five schools in all, three for boys and two for girls, each presided over by a headmaster or headmistress, whose appointment will rest with the Council of Almoners. As might have been expected, the religious character of the education is to be distinctly liberalised. No master is to be necessarily in holy orders; all that is required for a headmaster is a degree at some University in the United Kingdom. Religious instruction, "in accordance with the principles of "the Christian faith," is to be given at each school of the Foundation; and, beyond this, in each boarding-school religious instruction "in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England" is part of the plan. But any child may be exempted from either of these courses on the requisition of his or her parent or guardian, and shall lose no advantage or emolument thereby. Whatever may be thought of these last provisions—and we hold them to be unsatisfactory enough—no one can disapprove the next. There is to be an annual examination of each school by independent examiners, who will report on the state of the school, as will each headmaster and headmistress, to the Council of Almoners and to the Charity Commissioners. As to the nominations, most of them will remain as they now are, matters of favour and boons to be given chiefly by the City Companies and by those who have qualified as Governors by a donation of £500. The conditions, however, under which nominations are to be dispensed will be much more strict than heretofore, and such parents as are "in the opinion of the "Council of Almoners" able to contribute sub-"stantially" towards the education and maintenance of their children, will be required to contribute a yearly sum of not less than £10 nor more than £20 to the General Fund. But such parents as are unable to make a "substantial contribution" shall have their children educated free of all charge, and one-third of the places on the Foundation are always to be filled by children who come in quite gratuitously. In fact, the Foundation is now to be for the children of needy but not destitute parents, and those who can afford to pay something shall do so. There is a new and an excellent provision whereby one hundred places on the foundation are to be allotted to fifty boys and fifty girls nominated for admission by the Council of Almoners, such children being the sons and daughters of persons distinguished in literature, science, or art, or in the service of the Crown, or by services rendered either to the public or to the Hospital itself. But what is perhaps the greatest novelty in the scheme is the arrangement under which 107 places in the Boys' School and 70 places in the Girls' School are to be allotted for competition among children who have been for three years educated in any public elementary school in London, and have passed the sixth standard. Twelve additional places are to be competed for by children fulfilling similar conditions in certain places, such as Hertford, which are connected with the Hospital by special trusts. Children who distinguish themselves in the lower-grade schools want exactly such a bridge as is here given them to the higher-grade schools, and so on to the Universities. A sound education will thus be given to boys and girls alike, and the child who is now thrown upon the world at thirteen with a bent towards better things will have an opening ready for him if he chooses to take it. The only requisite for entering the examination is a nomination, and this should not be a difficult thing for a child to win who has satisfied his master and his inspector. He will no longer yield perforce to the pressing demands for intelligent labour. There is, however, the inevitable reverse of the medal, the other side of the question. The disadvantage of mingling two decidedly differing ranks of society is an obvious one, especially in the case of girls. The objections which the recalcitrant ratepayer will raise to paying his money for the purpose of fitting the children of his neighbour for Christ's Hospital, a Technical School, or even a University, will prove a very serious difficulty. These rocks will, we predict, be the Scylla and the Charybdis of the Charity Commissioners' scheme.

A similar provision will take effect in the Day Schools. "Three hundred free places in the Science "School, and two hundred free places in the Girls' "Day School shall be allotted to boys and girls "respectively who, at the time of their application "for admission to fill any of the said places, are "and have for at least three years been in any of "the public elementary schools in the metropolis, ". . . . and have passed the sixth standard "of examination in the elementary subjects." Such children shall be exempt from all payment, and a yearly sum shall be set apart for the benefit of those who are most in need of assistance. Further, a yearly sum of £1,000 for the boys and £500 for the girls shall be devoted to the purpose of providing exhibitions, not exceeding £40 in value, for those who have spent not less than two years in either of the Day Schools. These exhibitions are to be "tenable at any place of advanced "education or of professional or technical train-"ing" which the Council may approve.

These are the most salient features of the new order of things. Unless it is disapproved by either House of Parliament it will receive the Royal Assent. But it has first to receive the *fiat* of the Education Department. It is open to any protest now, and any member of either House may move for an address to the Crown praying Her Majesty to withhold her assent. If, as is most probable, these dangers and sunken rocks do not prove fatal, it will come into operation within a measurable distance of time. There are, however, many whose interest lies more on the surface of the proposed changes, and whose first question will be, "Is the old dress to be preserved?" It can hardly be doubted that when the school goes to the country, the dress will quickly disappear. No one can say for a moment that it is well fitted for country boys. It will survive alone in Leigh Hunt's exquisite picture of it, as consisting "of a blue drugget gown, or "body, with ample skirts to it; a yellow vest "underneath it in winter time; small clothes of "Russia duck; worsted yellow stockings; a "leathern girdle; and a little black worsted cap, "usually carried in the hand. I believe it was "the ordinary dress of children in humble life "during the reigns of the Tudors. We used to "flatter ourselves that it was taken from the "monks; and there went a monstrous tradition "that at one period it consisted of blue velvet "with silver buttons. It was said, also, that "during the blissful era of the blue velvet we "had roast mutton for supper; but that the "small clothes not being then in existence, and "the mutton suppers too luxurious, the eatables "were given up for the ineffables." This reminds one of the pious bequest under which the seventy collegers at Eton now keep their Threepenny Day. Some kindly soul left a sum the interest of which would furnish forth either a half-sheep or a threepenny piece, which were in his day equivalent in value. Needless to say that the latter is now the commuted form of the bequest. But the "trousers instead of mutton" theory suffices to explain the phrase "good creatures" which the boys could not understand in the lengthy grace used at Christ's Hospital as a preamble to the bald bread-and-cheese-suppers of Charles Lamb's day. "In the golden days of Christ's, the young "Hospitallers were wont to have smoking joints "of roast meat upon their nightly boards, till some "pious benefactor, commiserating the decencies "rather than the palates of the children, com-"muted our flesh for garments." So runs the story, and it is in the story alone that the curious dress of the Bluecoat boys will be known to our grandchildren.

## Reviews.

### THE RUNNYMEDE LETTERS.*

We are getting accustomed as each Primrose Day draws near to look for some literary memento of the great statesman whom Englishmen love to commemorate. Mr. Francis Hitchman has this year provided us with an appropriate one in his new edition of the *Runnymede Letters*, the authorship of which, though never avowed, has always been attributed without contradiction to Lord Beacons field. This handsomely-printed volume will receive a wide welcome both on account of its intrinsic literary merits and for the historic interest attaching to an early production of Lord Beaconsfield's brilliant genius. The polished wit and pungent satire in which these letters abound are unrivalled. In our humble judgment the *Runnymede Letters* are infinitely superior in every respect to the *Letters of Junius*. One remarkable feature about them is their extraordinary appositeness to the political circumstances of the present moment. As Mr. Hitchman observes in his Introduction, there is so great a likeness between the events of fifty years ago and those of to-day, that our lost leader's comments on the former must be good for the present distress. Then, as in our own day, a discredited Minister concluded a disgraceful treaty ("the Lichfield House Compact") with Irish Sedition, the House of Lords was constantly and virulently attacked, the Church threatened, and concessions made to lawlessness, rebellion, and outrage at the expense of the landed interest. This curious and interesting parallel could be illustrated again and again from the *Runnymede Letters*. Here is a passage from the dedication to Sir Robert Peel:—

> The public mind of late has been cleared of a vast amount of error in Constitutional learning. Scarcely a hired writer would have the front at this day to pretend that a difference of opinion between the two Houses of Parliament is a collision between the Peers and the People. That phrase "the People" is a little better comprehended now than it used to be; it will not serve for the stalking-horse of a faction as it did. . . . . We know very well that the Lords and Commons are both sections of the nation, and both alike and equally representative of that great community.

Perhaps it would not be altogether inappropriate in these days to apply to a certain member for Birmingham the language employed by Disraeli of a former member for Birmingham, Mr. Thomas Attwood, a violent agitator, who appears to have been the real inventor of the Caucus, and whose fortune was obtained by a monopoly of Swedish iron. Disraeli addresses him as "a fair represen-"tative of the considerable class who talk political "nonsense," and cites as a specimen of his "plebeian folly" the threat that at the sound of his "blatant voice, 100,000 armed men would "instantly rise in Birmingham." Cadmus, remarks Mr. Attwood's critic, had "produced armed "men by a process almost as simple; but the "teeth of the Theban king must yield to the jaw "of the Birmingham delegate." It is curious to observe that among the classes of the community specially hostile to the Birmingham demagogue were "the merchants, bankers, and shipowners."

In the letter to Lord Brougham we are told how "a great Empire has nearly been sacri-"ficed to the aggrandisement of a faction," and how "a band of intriguing politicians have for-"feited all the pledges of their previous careers or "violated all the principles of their practised "systems." Writing to Sir Robert Peel, the author observes, in language which is as true now as it was then:—

> However certain sections of the Opposition may occasionally have differed as to measures, their end has always been the same; whereas the several sections of the Ministerial party, while for obvious reasons they agree as to measures, avowedly adopt them because they tend to different ends.

The Whigs, the Radicals, the Irish Repealers "can only be united in a perverted sense; . . . "to a certain point they all wish to destroy; but "the Whigs only wish to destroy the Tories, the "Radicals the Constitution, and the Repealers the "Empire."

The following, addressed to Mr. Spring-Rice, might have been written now for the benefit of a living statesman:—

> Then "Ireland must be tranquillised." So I think. Feed the poor, hang the agitators. That will do it. But that's not your way. It is the destruction of the English and Protestant interest that is the Whig specific for Irish tranquillity. . . . Rest assured, Sir, your career draws rapidly to a close. Providence, that for our sins and the arrogance of our flush prosperity has visited this once great and glorious Empire with five years of Whig government, is not implacable.

We are inclined to ask whether these sentences are not applicable nowadays:—

> You rule this country by a coalition with an Irish rebel . . . Your aim is to reduce everything to your own mean level—to degrade everything to your malignant standard. Partially you have succeeded. You have revenged yourself upon the House of Lords, the only obstacle to your degenerating schemes, by denouncing its solemn suffrage as "the whisper of a faction."

Perhaps O'Connell too has his modern counterpart:—

> He has denounced your national character and insulted your national honour. . . . He has reviled your illustrious princes . . . . he has endeavoured to stir up rebellion against your august Senate. . . . Everything which is established comes under his ban, because it is an obstacle to the purpose for which he is paid—the destruction of everything which is English.

The letter to Mr. Ellice contains some other noticeable passages on Irish affairs:—

> With the characteristic liberality of your nature, yours was the intellect that first devised the ingenious plan of appeasing Ireland by the sacrifice of England. . . . . No one can suppose, for an instant, that in forming a close alliance one year with a man whom twelve months before they had denounced as a rebel . . . . your pupils were actuated by any other motives but the most just, the most disinterested, and the most honourable.

On the Home Rule question these were Disraeli's views fifty years ago:—

> Is a great Empire to be dissolved by an idle logomachy? If Dublin have an equal right with Westminster to the presence of a Parliament, is the right of York less valid? Be consistent, my Lords, in the development of the new system of politics. Repeal the Union, and revive the Heptarchy. . . . . These men cannot be conciliated. They are your foes because they are the foes of England. They hate our free and fertile isle. They hate our order, our civilisation, our enterprising industry, our sustained courage, our decorous liberty, our pure religion. This wild, reckless, indolent, uncertain, and superstitious race have no sympathy with the English character.

* *The Runnymede Letters.* With an Introduction and Notes by Francis Hitchman.—London: R. Bentley and Son, 1885.

The following is almost prophetic :—

I forget who was the wild theorist who enunciated the absurd doctrine that "ships, colonies, and commerce" were the surest foundations of the Empire. What an infinitely ridiculous idea! . . . . . Colonies, like country-houses, we have long recognised to be sources only of continual expense, and to be kept up merely from a puerile love of show . . . The meritorious and unceasing labours of the noble Secretary for Foreign Affairs for the destruction of English influence on the Continent will soon permit his Lordship to receive his salary without any necessary attendance at his office. Lord Morpeth has nearly got rid of Ireland. The selection of your Lordship to regulate the destinies of our colonies insures their speediest emancipation from "the unjust domination of the mother country." The recent government of Lord William Bentinck will, I fear, rob Sir John Hobhouse of half the glory of losing India.

Some remarks on a certain Division in the House of Commons remind us of another celebrated Division taken half a century later. Hired writers, he says,

triumph over the Division in the Commons; they might have read their knell in the voice of the tellers. . . . . Do they indeed think that the people of England care one jot whether there be ten or twenty traitors more or less in the House of Commons? It is not a miserable majority in that assembly, either way, that will destroy or preserve the Empire. . . . . That Division numbered the days of the Cabinet, and they know it.

How the truth of such observations as the following comes home to us now :—

The Minister who maintains himself in power in spite of the contempt of a whole nation must be gifted with no ordinary capacity. . . . You were justly conscious that the Cabinet . . . . was about to serve out measures of such absorbing interest in our domestic policy, that little time could be spared by the nation to a criticism of your Lordship's labours. During the agitation of Parliamentary Reform your career resembled the last American war in the midst of the revolutions of Europe: it was very disgraceful, but never heard of. . . But your saturnalia of undetected scrapes and unpunished blunders is now over. . . . There is no party-cry at home to screen your foreign exploits from critical attention. . . . Sick as the nation may be of this inglorious destruction, there is one silly head, I believe, that it would grieve no one to see added to the heap. It would atone for the havoc, it would extenuate the slaughter. . . For the last five years a mysterious dimness seems to have been stealing over the gems of our imperial diadem. The standard of England droops fitfully upon its staff. He must indeed be an inexperienced mariner who does not mark the ground-swell of the coming tempest. If there be a war in Europe to-morrow, it will be a war against English supremacy, and we have no allies.

What Tory in these days will not re-echo such sentiments as these :—

The time is come for bold and vigorous conduct. . . . Five years of Whig government have not yet completely broken our once proud spirit. . . . There is not a man in Britain who at the bottom of his heart is not proud of our Empire.

Our last quotation shall be from words addressed to the Prime Minister of half-a-century back :—

Your hollow pretences all evaporated, your disgraceful manœuvres all detected, your reckless expedients all exhausted, we recognise only a desperate and long-baffled oligarchy, ready to sacrifice, for the possession of a power to which they are incompetent, the laws, the Empire, the religion of England. . . It requires no prophet to announce that the commencement of the end is at length at hand. The reign of delusion is about to close. The man who obtains property by false pretences is sent to Botany Bay. Is the party that obtains power by the same means to be saved harmless? . . . The Whigs came into office under auspices so favourable that they never could have been dislodged from their long-coveted posts except by their incompetence and dishonesty. . . In the course of five years they have at once deceived the Sovereign and deluded the nation. . . With peace, reform, and retrenchment for their motto, in the course of five years they have involved us in a series of ignoble wars . . . What rashness and what cowardice, what petty prudence and what vast recklessness, what arrogance and what truckling, are comprised in the brief annals of this last assault of your faction upon the Constitutional Monarchy of England. . . The popular and boisterous gale that originally drove your party into power has long since died away, and though some occasional and fitful gusts may have deceived you into believing that your sails were to be ever set, and your streamers ever flying, the more experienced navigators have long detected the rising of the calm yet steady breeze fatal to your course. It is a wind that may be depended on—a great monsoon of national spirit, which will clear the seas of those political pirates who have too long plundered us under false colours. . . And yet, let us not part in anger. . . You can yet perform an act which will command the gratitude of every lover of his country; you can—Resign.

We must not forget to mention that Mr. Hitchman, by his excellent Introduction and Notes, has succeeded in making clear what might otherwise have been obscure. This admirable book should be obtained and preserved by every Conservative in the kingdom.

## NEW NOVELS.

*When All Was Young** is a bright and attractive novelette which is well worth reading. The scene is laid in the Saxon Switzerland, and the author, Mr. Cecil Clarke, has succeeded in investing the drama to which that lovely district forms the background with no little charm. There is not, indeed, very much in the story, and the outline of the plot could be described in very few words. But on the foundation of this scanty plot the writer has succeeded in raising a very agreeable and pleasant superstructure, and we have read many more ambitious works which were not half so well worth reading. From the opening chapter, in which the young Junipers discover floating down the Elbe the mysterious canister that plays so prominent a part in the working out of the plot, to the last chapter, in which the peasant girl of the Saxon Switzerland who has, in her despair, committed to that canister her imploring appeal to the youth of her heart, is re-united to that youth by the exertions of Mrs. Juniper, we are carried pleasantly along. The author has evidently derived from personal experience the local colour which he has imparted to his book. Perhaps a stern critic who had a severe eye to probability would find fault with the remarkable coincidences which enable Mrs. Juniper to come across the young girl; while her former admirer, Mr. Ernstone, comes across the young man whose love story was likely to go so much astray had it not been for those fortunate meetings. But critics less severe, who are content to find a pleasant story pleasantly told, will enjoy the novelette before us, which is certainly much above the average.

Mrs. Oliphant's latest story, which has run its course in *Longman's Magazine*, has now appeared in a one-volume form, having rapidly passed in the interval through the three-volume stage. We have from time to time during its progress as a serial commented upon it, and we find no reason to change the opinions which we then expressed. *Madam** is certainly clever, as all Mrs. Oliphant's work must needs be; but the cleverness is of a more laboured and less attractive character than in her previous novels. The literary skill for which she is so distinguished among her sister artists has in the present instance lost that *Ars celandi artem* which adds so much charm to the exhibition of that literary skill. Labour and pains have no doubt been bestowed upon this novel, as upon all that Mrs. Oliphant writes; but the strain involved by this expenditure of labour and pains is made unpleasantly obvious. We have never read one of her books which gave us less pleasure, though it has undoubtedly, both in the conception of the plot and of the characters, the making of a book which might have been read with pleasure by her admirers, among whom we have always been proud to rank ourselves. Mrs. Trevanion herself is a striking picture, and Rosalind is, taken as a whole, a charming young lady. But we find it difficult to forgive her for having even for a time failed to recognise the innate snobbishness of Edmund Everard. Perhaps the cleverest part of the book is to be found in the picture of the selfishness of Rex, and of the yet more precocious selfishness of Sophy.

One of the most readable novels of the present season is that published under the title of *Some Stained Pages*,† which will certainly find more appreciative readers than did the writer's last work, upon which this is a very decided improvement. Considerable feeling and spirit are displayed in the narration of the hero's trials and difficulties, pleasantly diversified by many touches of genuine humour. The characters are very true to nature, and are not in any instance overdrawn. The authoress narrates the adventures and hard fight for existence of Antony Grace, the only son of a gentleman who has been ruined through the machinations of an unprincipled lawyer, who on the death of Mr. Grace took Antony into his offices professedly out of charity. He there so brutally ill-treats the lad as to drive him to the last desperate resort of running away. Arrived in London after many adventures, footsore and weary, he eventually obtains employment in a printing-office, and afterwards, through the assistance of Miss Carr, whose friendship he has secured, in a large engineering firm, where his progress is rapid. In due course he succeeds to property which had been illegally withheld from his father by the lawyer Blackford, whose daughter, Hetty, Antony marries. There are many cleverly drawn characters in the book, the best perhaps being that of the "man in possession," Mr. Peter Rowle; while the presence of William Rivetts, the policeman, and his sweetheart Mary, Mr. Blackford's servant, add considerably to the humorous scenes in the story. Many of the incidents in the lives of some of Antony's friends, Miriam Carr and Stephen Hallett especially, are extremely painful in their connection with the libertine John Lester, and give great scope for the writer to exercise the many talents she evidently possesses as a novelist.

Several of the characters portrayed by Mrs Cameron in her latest novel, *A Dead Past*,‡ are far and away above those ordinarily met with in works of fiction; that of the heroine, Catherine Laybourne, the naturalist's only daughter, being a particularly happy conception. This young lady, to whom has been given the well-chosen pseudonym of Kitten, is left at the age of sixteen to the guardianship of Brian Desmond, who conceives the idea of making her his wife, notwithstanding his affection is already centred on one Rosamond Earle. The result is not a happy one, for Kitten, who is devotedly attached to her husband, discovers the true state of his feelings towards her, and learns through some mischief-making ladies, of whom we have several good specimens in the story, that Brian has been seen in the company of Rosamond. She determines to sacrifice her own happiness, and leaves her husband, that he may enjoy the society of the woman he loves. But Rosamond, finding that he has married during her absence abroad, notwithstanding his promise that he would marry no one but her, also discards him, and he is left to his remorse. Eventually Kitten is discovered by Rosamond passing as a servant at Brian's country house, into the possession of which he has come through the death of an uncle. Brian is sent for, but arrives to find his wife dead. Rosamond marries a Colonel Trefusis, and Brian, to bury a dead past, devotes the whole of his energies to philanthropic work. The characters we have mentioned are undoubtedly the best in the book, and are admirably drawn. Amongst the other personages in the story, Sir Roy Grantley and his sister Felicia, the gossipping Mrs. Talbot and her daughter Gertrude, and Edgar Raikes are well drawn, and add greatly to the interest of a cleverly conceived and well worked-out plot.

* *When All Was Young.* By Cecil Clarke. In One Vol.—London: Elliot Stock, 1885.

* *Madam.* By Mrs. Oliphant. In One Vol.—London: Longmans and Co., 1885.

† *Some Stained Pages.* By the Author of *The New Mistress.*—London: Ward and Downey, 1885.

‡ *A Dead Past.* By Mrs. H. Lovett Cameron. In Three Vols.—London: F. V. White and Co.

## SOME REVIEWS AND MAGAZINES.

*Blackwood* opens with an exposure of "Our "Egyptian Atrocities," which might have sharpened the edge of Sir Stafford Northcote's too amiable censure. The reproaches heaped on Lord Beaconsfield for transactions in Bulgaria with which, whether real or imaginary, he had no more to do than the man in the moon return upon Mr. Gladstone a hundred times over for his own acts in Egypt. Occupied by British troops, and ruled by British authorities with absolute power, this unhappy country is at the last gasp of misery and oppression. Purpose and policy there has been none from first to last; blood shed like water—millions of treasure squandered—the people worse than before—Gordon abandoned and sacrificed—our gallant troops wasted in killing savages—and a heavy load heaped on the British taxpayer—these are undisputed atrocities. And the House of Commons sees nothing to censure! "Plain Frances Mowbray" comes to a disappointing conclusion, but "The Waters of Hercules" continue to improve. The strength of the number lies in the four political articles. A Russian Philosopher shows us the danger of again drifting into war or the cowardly submission which is more to be expected from a Gladstone Cabinet. The Foreign and Colonial policy of Gladstone, Granville, and Derby, and Mr. Chamberlain's notions of Property form other counts in the formidable indictment.

Mr. Austin's opening article in the *National Review* has already been the subject of comment in our columns. Mr. Blackburne Daniell pleads—in vain, we fear—against the scandalous injustice of the provisions of the Redistribution Bill relating to Ireland, which are purposely and deliberately designed to strengthen the cause of Treason and Assassination. Mr. Vernon Smith expresses his belief that Women's Suffrage is demanded not only by abstract justice, but by high State policy. Mr. F. Robinson's remarks on Army Recruiting are sensible and to the point, but perhaps not very original. He enumerates Peace-at-any-price-mongers, religious fanatics, and exchequer-economists amongst the foes to effective Army Reform. He forgets the treason-mongers and betrayers of the Empire holding Cabinet rank. Mr. Leopold Katscher's account of the "Salva-"tion Army" is the most complete and impartial that we have met with. He seems inclined to commend or to condone some, at least, of the very features of the Army which we think among the most objectionable, and to censure the only thing that we should be able to praise under any circumstances—its missionary zeal. But then Mr. Katscher rather hints that he is not a Christian himself. Mr. Roper Lethbridge points out lucidly and convincingly the general principles upon which it would be possible to establish an Imperial Fiscal Policy. Mrs. Lynn Linton and Mr. John Coleman both dispute Mr. Burnand's recent allegations with regard to the stage, and the morals of those who make it their profession. The truth is that there are theatres and theatres—actors and actors—actresses and actresses.

*Macmillan* is not very bright. The new story, "Mrs. Dymond," is not equal (so far) to "The Mil-"lionaire's Cousin," which comes to an end. The "Chapter of English History" is a review of a book which it is to be hoped really does relate the capture of Quebec. "Blackstone" is duller and more pointless than we ever found him in his own pages. The Reviewer of the Month, in common with all Liberal journalists of late, discovers that Disraeli was both a politician and a statesman.

The big monthlies are dull. The *Contemporary's* best paper is probably Mr. Hutton's "George "Eliot," but the subject has been made repulsive by Mr. Crosse's publication. We doubt if all the merit of her novels can long preserve the fame of one whose immoral relations have been so ruthlessly exposed to the public gaze. Sir Richard Temple may be right in thinking the Mahdi ought to be smashed for the peace of India, but we do not believe that any one hopes or means to do it. Mr. Goldwin Smith's "Organi-"sation of Democracy" is too Yankee for English use. "Amiel's Journal" is a paper by Miss Blanche Leppington, crying up a professor who lectured at Geneva "drily enough," and lived and died to no better purpose. The present object is to convince us that the man had fine gold in him if he could but have coined it, wonderful powers, but he could do nothing with them. He had pigeonholes crammed with facts and wrote poems which were frigid and mechanical. "The man was not there," nor anywhere it would seem but in the imagination of his friends. We have been long waiting for some exposure of that most popular and illogical book, Professor Drummond's *Natural Law in the Spiritual World*, and Mr. Watson at last supplies it. The book is a consummate piece of clap-trap. We agree with Mr. Watson, that it is "neither science nor religion," and he is likely enough to be right in calling it "a bastard Calvinism of which Scotland ought to be ashamed." Mr. Oldham's "Native Faiths in the "Himalayeh" is interesting but dry. Miss Emily Pfeiffer serves up again the arguments for Woman Suffrage which have already converted half mankind; but if it were all she would be no nearer to the franchise, as long as Liberals make it the point of honour to vote black white for the convenience of the party.

The *Nineteenth Century* harps away upon the well-worn strings of Unity of Empire, Egypt and Soudan, Highland Crofters, George Eliot, and Imperial Federation. The performers are Lord Bury, Marquis of Lorne, Sir W. H. Gregory, Lord Napier and Ettrick, Lord Acton, and the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P. Sir E. Hamley strikes a slightly fresher note in a paper on the Volunteers in Time of Need. Prince Krapotkin is distinctly renovating in his revelation of a new Nationality in Finland. Hobart Pasha contributes some weighty words on Turkey and England, and the Marchese Nobili-Vitelleschi dilates on the Political Situation of Europe. The other papers contain a whimsical project by Mr. Balmer for whispering machines—*i.e.*, books reading themselves off on the principle of the phonograph—Lord Darnley's condemnation of the Eton Tutorial System, and Mr. Hamilton Aidé's pretentious "reply to a great deal that is foolish" on the Actor's Calling.

The *Antiquary* has several good articles. Mr. Gomme has much that is instructive to tell us about the causes that led to the rebellion of Wat Tyler and Jack Straw, and as to the influence on the peasantry of old ballads of a communistic tone. The second instalment of Mr. J. E. Price's interesting papers on "Our Sports and Pastimes" deals with Archery. The second of Mr. Keyser's delightful "Church Walks" takes us from Uppingham to Ayston, Wardley, Allexton, Belton, Ridlington, Brooke, and Braunston—all in the Cottesmore country. We are quite surprised to find a second part of "Digit Folklore," having had no idea there was so much to be said on the subject. We do not find much of interest in the paper on London Theatres. This month's "Celebrated Birth-places" deals seasonably with that of Gainsborough.

Colonel Malleson's chapter on "Ambushes and "Surprises" in the *Army and Navy Magazine* has for its subject the disastrous attempt to capture the French Fort Duquesne in Canada by the British troops under Braddock in 1755. The "French Navy of the Past" is of less importance to us just now than the French Navy of the present; but Mr. Collier writes ably and well concerning our ancient maritime foe. The prospects of the war between France and China are discussed in an editorial article, in which some of the difficulties beseting the path of the French are clearly pointed out. The paper on torpedo-boat warfare will be read with a specially painful interest at a moment when Englishmen are making the simultaneous discovery that torpedo-boats are the very things we ought to have, and also the very things we do not possess.

All the excellent features which usually characterise the *Season* are visible in the current number. We have coloured plates of all the latest Paris fashions, many dress and needlework designs and pattern-sheets, while the accompanying letterpress consists of articles and descriptive matter of the most useful and instructive character.

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Colonel Grant, Speke's fellow-traveller, has published under the title of *Khartoum as I Saw It in* 1863 (Wm. Blackwood and Sons) an abstract of the notes in his journal kept at the time, which have a peculiar interest now that Khartoum has become a household word among us. These commence with the day before the travellers reached the town itself, and extend over a period of rather more than a fortnight. The daily life of the place is graphically described, and the illustrations, taken some from photographs and some from the gallant Colonel's own drawings, enable us to realise its outward appearance, which has probably changed but little during the one-and-twenty years which have elapsed. The pamphlet has already reached a second edition, and we are not surprised at it, as it supplies just what many readers will want in the way of a compact account of what has now become one of the famous spots in the world's history.

We must own that we do not quite see how a *Life of Richelieu* comes to find a place in a "series of books illustrative of Church history," or how it comes to be "specially but not exclu-"sively adapted for Sunday reading." But putting aside this rather obvious criticism, we have little else but praise to accord to the interesting volume which M. Masson has contributed to the *Home Library*, now in course of publication by the S.P.C.K. It occupies the *via media* between an elaborate historical work and an elementary historical primer. While we can well believe that an objection may be made to it as not being full enough for the one and being too full for the other, we are not ourselves inclined to concur in this criticism, as we think that books occupying this *via media* have a special value of their own. They fill a place between the elaborate historical study and the more elementary work, which is very useful for the student who has advanced beyond the one without wishing to embark on the other. M. Masson possesses special qualification for his task, and his intimate acquaintance with the French memoir-writers of the period has contributed much to the success of the present volume. It gives a succinct but very readable account of the history of France during the sway of the great Cardinal, and traces out with much effect the main lines of his policy. These were the abasement of the House of Austria, the destruction of the Huguenots as a political power, and the curtailing of the privileges of the aristocracy. How he worked out that policy is admirably described by M. Masson, and his little volume is a useful contribution to the study of French history during one of its most important periods. We no not think he throws much new light upon that history, and his estimate of his hero may perhaps be regarded as too favourable. But he must at all events be credited with the production of a very interesting book, and his command of English is very remarkable. It is only now and then that a Gallicism slips out: one such Gallicism we have specially noticed, when he speaks of the proposal that the Concordat should be annulled as *abusive*, not by any means implying what we in England understand by the term.

# Correspondence.

## OLD CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEACHING.

*To the Editor of the* JOHN BULL.

Sir,—Having recently studied with some care and intense interest the *Life and Letters of Herbert de Lotinga*, first Bishop of Norwich (A.D. 1050—1119)—a volume edited by the present Dean, Dr. Goulburn, and Precentor Symonds, of Norwich Cathedral, I ask permission to call attention to its obvious historical and theological merits. The sermons are fine specimens from the pen of a thorough Church of England prelate.

The two following beautiful and devotional extracts tell their own story :—

"She, the Blessed Virgin, was made white with many virtues and merits, yea, whiter than the driven snow was she made by the gift of the Holy Ghost; and showed forth in all things the simplicity of the dove; since whatever was done in her was all purity and simplicity, was all pure grace, was all the mercy and justice which looked down from heaven. And therefore is she called undefiled (*et ideo immaculata*), because in nothing was she corrupt" (*quia in nulla corrupta*).—Vol. II., p. 349.

And the following concerning a Feast retained in the post-Reformation Kalendar, but too commonly neglected :—

"To-day the most Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up above the heavens, and in the presence of the holy Apostles her body was placed in the sepulchre. She died. But a body of such excellent dignity could not (as Blessed Gregory saith) long be held in the bonds of death. For it was impossible that that flesh should be corrupted by a long death of which the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. For if at the Lord's resurrection many bodies of the saints that had slept arose, how could that flesh not rise again which gave birth to the Author of life Himself? With a full and undoubting faith, believe ye, my brethren, that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, made immortal both in body and soul, sitteth at the right hand of God, with her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, being the mother of penitents, and a most effectual intercessor for our sins with her most gracious Son."—Vol. II., pp. 351-2.

Now instead of those two important outworks of the Incarnation (the Conception and Assumption of our Lady) being novel doctrines, as some assert, they were thus both taught with singular clearness by this holy Bishop, and were evidently in the eleventh century a part of the faith of our beloved Church.

These two volumes, let me add, contain a large amount of very interesting historical information, the notes and illustrations of the editor's being of much value. There are a few mistakes, as regards the nature and character of "our Church's" ancient rites and ceremonies — easily enough made, unless persons are actually and practically familiar with them. The books themselves deserve a place on the shelves of all students of Church history. Yours obediently,

FREDERICK GEORGE LEE.

*All Saints', Lambeth, Mid-Lent Sunday*, 1885.

## THE "BENEFITS" OF VIVISECTION.

*To the Editor of the* JOHN BULL.

Sir,—You did me the honour, a short time ago, to insert a letter of mine on the vivisection controversy, and I shall be obliged if you will allow me to refer to a leading article on the subject in your issue of the 14th. In this you say :—"The beneficial results to mankind which have resulted from the experiments of the vivisectionists cannot be questioned." With the greatest deference, I beg to meet this statement with a direct negative. Sir Charles Bell—to say nothing of humbler persons—has said : "Experiments have never been the means of discovery;" and of his own discoveries he said, "They are deductions from anatomy." The fact is, that the beneficial results of vivisection are constantly being questioned, and nothing but the vaguest replies are forthcomg. The objectors ask for a single instance in which it can be proved that a life has been saved through vivisection. Recently, the *Times* announced that the single instance had at last been found in the celebrated brain-tumour case. But lo! in a few days, this "living monument" of the benefits of vivisection—was dead! Since then another brain-tumour case, almost exactly similar, has occurred at King's College Hospital—and with the same fatal result. These are the natural fruits—"benefits," perhaps, from a Malthusian point of view, of vivisection, and the only kind of fruit the practice has yet borne. It is true the mouths of the vivisectors are, as Claude Bernard said, "full of promise for the future," but it is to their "empty words," that we must look when we speak of actual beneficial results.

Regarding the Oxford Vote, it should be borne in mind that it was carried on the strength of pledges given by Professor Burdon Sanderson not to use vivisection for teaching purposes. By this he confesses that vivisection is useless as a means of education. It should also be noticed that the circular sent round by his friends made it appear (to the *Standard* among others) that he had promised not to vivisect at all.

As for the "safeguards" afforded to animals by the Vivisection Act, I beg leave to state that they are just as gravely questioned as the "beneficial results" of vivisection; and with good reason the experiments of Rutherford, Roy, Ferrier, Brunton, and others since the passing of the Act serve abundantly to show. I am, sir, &c.,

JOHN H. CLARKE, M.D.

15, *St. George's-terrace, Gloucester-road, S.W., March* 19.

## CHURCH PENITENTIARY ASSOCIATION.

*To the Editor of the* JOHN BULL.

Sir,—The success which has, by God's blessing, attended Rescue work during the late Mission, has necessarily thrown a considerable strain on the resources of the various Homes and Refuges in connection with the Church Penitentiary Association.

I would therefore entreat those who take an interest in this work to give us increased support, permanent if possible. Yours faithfully,

D. ROBERTSON-MACDONALD, Vice-Admiral, Treasurer.

14, *York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C., March* 18.

# LITERARY AND OTHER NOTES.

Our correspondent the Rev. J. E. Rudd, Rector of Covenham St. Mary, writes :—"During the ensuing month of April the weather will be changeable.

April weather,
Rain and sunshine, both together.
Avril le doux,
Quand il se fâche, le pire des tous.
Avril
Thut was er will.

The first and second weeks will be very mild. Possibly we may have a thunderstorm during the second week. The interval between the 15th and 23rd will be cold. The weather will improve, and there will be some fine, warm weather between the 21st and 29th. The weather is likely to be exceptionally wet and stormy on the 6th, 7th, 10th, 14th, 19th, and 23rd. The aspect is still favourable, and the soil in very promising condition."

*The Life and Speeches of Lord Salisbury*, as written and compiled by Mr. F. S. Pulling, is just ready for publication. Besides an account of Lord Salisbury's career, the volume will contain a complete history of the Conservative party in Parliament from 1853 to the present day, and sketches of the policies pursued by the various Ministries, Conservative and Liberal, during that period. Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. are the publishers.

The Council of the Art Union of London have acquired the copyright of a very faithful portrait-bust of the late General Gordon, and reproductions of it in terra-cotta will be included, as prizes, in the next distribution. The bust will also be procurable by members of the Art Union, in lieu of the annual work, by a moderate addition to the subscription.

A recent news item from Chicago runs as follows :—When Matthew Arnold was in this city, Carrie Price, aged eleven, living on the south side, was among the multitude who called upon him. She told Mr. Arnold that she had read nearly everything that he had written, and surprised and delighted him by reciting some of his poems and several extracts from his prose writings. On investigation he discovered that the child was poor, and that she had borrowed nearly all the books that she had read from circulating libraries. A few days ago she received a package from Mr. Arnold which contained a complete set of his prose and poetical works, all of which were elegantly bound in full Russia leather and with gilt edges. The value of the set is said to be about 150dols. Miss Price says that as much as she is delighted with Mr. Arnold's magnificent gift, she considers the pleasant little note which accompanied the books a still greater treasure.

A cornelian ring with Pope's head, given by the poet to Warburton, only fetched seven guineas at the sale at Trentham Vicarage. One of the glasses blown for Prince Charles Edward at Derby, and intended to be used at a banquet at Windsor on the triumph of the Jacobite cause, was bought at the same sale by Her Majesty for £17 10s.

The general committee of the Birmingham Triennial Musical Festival have approved a scheme of performance for this gathering in August next. The programme contains eight new works, including Gounod's "Mors et Vita," Herr Dvorák's cantata, "The Spectre Bride," V. Stanford's oratorio, "The Three Holy Children," F. Cowen's cantata, "The Sleeping Beauty," Mr. T. Anderton's "Yule Tide," a new symphony by Ebenezer Prout, Dr. Bridge's setting of Mr. Gladstone's Latin version of "Rock of Ages," and Mr. Mackenzie's violin concerto, in which it is hoped Herr Joachim will be able to attend and take a part.

The Edinburgh Town Council have resolved to place memorial tablets on all spots of historical interest in the city. The first place to receive this mark of attention is the site in Chambers-street (formerly College Wynd) of the house where Sir Walter Scott was born; and it has also been decided to erect a memorial stone over the grave of the novelist's father in Greyfriars Churchyard.

The French artistic journals with one voice lament the hapless condition of Delaroche's famous picture on the "Hémicycle de l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts," Paris, which is striated with considerable fissures, and marked by nitrous infiltrations which have decomposed the pigments. An upright crack, nearly two centimètres wide, divides the group of landscape painters, affects the head of Ruysdael and Paul Potter, "effleurant la figure du Giorgione," and loses itself in zig-zags in the sky. The group of Titian and Rembrandt, as well as that comprising M. Angelo, Raphael, Da Vinci, and Fra Bartolommeo, are seriously affected.

Mr. H. R. Forrest, of Birmingham, thus describes the araponga, in books of ornithology called the hammer or anvil bird. The bird is white, and, with the exception of its very wide gullet, looks like a pigeon. It is said to live a very solitary life, ensconcing itself on the tops of very high trees. The peculiarity of this bird is that it has no chirp nor song, but then on the other hand it emits a steady, clashing sound, as if the same emanated from a smith striking his anvil. Many legends have arisen from this sound, and many a story has been told of the araponga acting as a kind of will-of-the-wisp to some of the first explorers, who concluded from the sound they heard that they were not far from some hamlet, or rather facienda.

A Parliamentary return has been issued showing the sums expended by the trustees of the National Gallery in each year from 1860 to 1884 inclusive in the purchase of pictures from moneys provided by Parliament. The total sum so expended during that period has been £250,100. Apart from the years 1871-2 and 1872-3, the returns for which are *nil*, the smallest amount expended in any one year was £350 (1877-8), and the largest £76,500 (1870-1.) This is by a long way the largest sum spent in any year embraced in the return, the nearest approach to it being £25,299 in 1882-3. The figures for other years vary from £2,819 to £16,678. During the period mentioned no single picture was purchased for a sum of or exceeding £10,000, but the following prices above that amount have been paid for groups of pictures purchased at the same time out of one collection :—£75,000 for 77 pictures and 18 drawings purchased from Sir Robert Peel's collection in 1870-1, £10,395 for 13 pictures from the Barker collection in 1874-5, and £21,042 for ten pictures from the Duke of Hamilton's collection in 1882-3.

The *Athenæum*, in an interesting notice of the first instalment of a catalogue of English books prepared for the Museum trustees under the editorship of Mr. Bullen, says :—"The Library of the British Museum has existed about 125 years, during the last forty of which it has been really a living institution. We have now, for the first time, its English department catalogued by itself to 1640. What proportion this known is to the great unknown it is difficult to say. Means of judging are deficient, but not wholly wanting. Of the Caxtons, Dibdin in 1810 was able to enumerate only sixty-four. Mr. Blades in 1877 gave 103, and more have turned up since. The British Museum has fifty-seven, many of them mere fragments and others imperfect. It has, besides, twenty-seven duplicates. Of books printed at Oxford 1468-1640, which Mr. Madan estimates roughly at 796, the British Museum possesses 436. There are substantial reasons for believing that Dibdin's lists of Wynkin de Wordes and of Pynsons were as deficient as his lists of Caxtons. If so, the whole number of works and editions printed by De Worde would fall not far short of 400, while those of Pynson would exceed 200. Of the former Dibdin describes 198, and we find there are in the Museum 192, besides fourteen duplicates. Dibdin records 110 of Pynson's titles, while we find in Mr. Bullen's catalogue 121 and nineteen duplicates. It is not likely that many of the early printers are better represented than these three. It has long been known that the national library, though far richer than any other, is wofully deficient in English books, not only down to 1640, but even to 1830, notwithstanding the readiness of the last five Keepers of the Printed Books to fill up a blank as opportunity offered. Indeed, during the reigns of Mr. Panizzi and Mr. Winter Jones, it was often remarked that if 100 or 1,000 miscellaneous English books, containing an average proportion of the rarer ones, were offered, about one-half of them would be purchased. From these facts and others which might be named, we are forced to the conclusion, after comparing Mr. Bullen's catalogue with those of Chatsworth, the late Mr. Henry Huth, Trinity College, Dublin, &c., that these three volumes cannot contain much more than one-half of the whole body of English literature in existence prior to 1640. But one-half is a good deal, and if the authorities with their present means cannot double it in twenty years, give them more money and more time. The Grenville Library in 1847 added largely to this department. Perhaps similar windfalls may again occur, or some syndicate, growing tired of *bric-à-brac*, may turn its wasted enthusiasm to buying old English books for the nation."

Before a crowded audience, gathered in the theatre of the London Institution, on Monday evening, Archdeacon Farrar delivered an interesting lecture on "The Talmud and its Authors." He began by reminding his audience that all subjects affecting large bodies of mankind must at least have a human interest. The Jews were especially a phenomenal nation, whose history was marvellously foreshadowed in their prophetical books, and their vitality as a people was an ever-memorable fact. The lecturer went on to speak of the remarkable change which came over them after the days of the Exile. Their sojourn in Babylon completely disenchanted them from the temptation to material idolatry. The stages of this development were traced, and the grandeur and permanence of the work effected by Ezra and his successors, the inaugurators of the Oral Law were dwelt upon, with telling illustrations of the spirit of traditionalism. An interesting sketch of the life of Rabbi Hillel, the contemporary of Christ, followed. He was the first systematiser of the Oral Law, and the beauty of his character and teaching was contrasted with the narrow formalism of his rival, Shammai. The Talmud was full from beginning to end of debates and conflicting opinions, and these dated from the days of these two antagonists, who were the precursors of a thousand years of casuistical discussions inconceivably frivolous to us. Are grapes unclean, it was asked, if the vat be unclean? Shammai said "Yes," Hillel "No." "Should you bless the Sabbath first or the wine first?" Shammai said the Sabbath, Hillel the wine. The lecturer proceeded to speak of the great work of Rabbi Johanan Ben Zakkai, the restorer of Judaism, in maintaining the patriotism of the Jews after the fall of Jerusalem under Vespasian. Rabbi Akiba's life was graphically sketched. He was the great theologian of the Oral Law. An account was given of the very prominent part he took in the rebellion the false Messiah Barkhokhab, of his strange system of interpreting Scripture, and of his tragical end. The Apostate of the Talmud, Rabbi Elisha Ben Abuhu, was not overlooked, and the sad story of his immoral life and terrible death was briefly told. The lecturer was thus brought to the epoch of Rabbi Judah, the holy, the first editor of the Mishna, which formed the literary substratum of of the Talmud. Rabbi Judah's work was the authoritative reduction to writing of the vast mass of precepts and traditions which constituted the Oral Law. This was the text on which the Gemara was the most ancient commentary, the two together being known as the Talmud, or Body of Learning. The collection known as the Mishna was written in a brief, lapidary style, almost resembling that of our telegrams, and it therefore required a good deal of such explanation as was embodied in the Gemara. These comments ranged over three centuries, from A.D. 200, in which year Rabbi Judah died, to about A.D. 500, when Rabbi Ashi published them under the name of the Gemara, or Completion. Archdeacon Farrar concluded his lecture with a comprehensive sketch of the main characteristics of the Talmud, with plenty of specimen passages, including various Illustrations of its phenomenally strange cryptographs, and of some of the nobler elements of its teaching.

# HER MAJESTY'S DRAWING-ROOM.

The Drawing-Room on Wednesday was a very large one, and the number of the Corps Diplomatique who attended, as well as the extensive *entrée*, made it unusually late before the general circle were admitted, and everyone feared Her Majesty might not be able to stand the fatigue of seeing many. It was past four before the Queen retired. The *début* of Princess Louise of Wales was the special interest of the day, and the simple elegance of her appearance was much noticed as she stood in the Royal circle, a girlish figure dressed in white tulle and poult de soie, with few ornaments save the plume and tulle veil in her hair, and some bouquets of real lilies of the valley on the bodice and dress. The diplomatic circle was very full, and some quaint Eastern costumes were to be seen, that worn by an Indian lady attracting much attention—a closely-draped garment of rich white material was covered with an embroidered overdress, falling in graceful folds, while the customary veil was draped round the head and shoulders, and fastened with very fine jewels. After kissing the Queen's hand, an Eastern salutation surprised the spectators, who were not prepared for it. The presentations were nearly two hundred, and, among others much noticed for the beauty of their dresses, we remarked several brides.

The Queen's toilette was entirely of black, the train of black silk heavily trimmed with crape and jet; Her Majesty's ornaments were also jet, and the usual white veil was replaced by a black one, the blue ribbon of the Garter and the other orders forming the only relief to the mourning costume. The Princess of Wales wore black tulle with jet trimming and large lilac clematis; the train was of black silk, and her Royal Highness wore her magnificent tiara of diamonds, with other jewels of great brilliancy. Princess Beatrice wore a very pretty shade of mauve, the train of broché satin, with skirt of plain satin much trimmed with shaded violets, as was the bodice; her Royal Highness wore beautiful diamonds and the several orders she possesses.

A lovely brocade worn by two ladies, whose dresses were alike, illustrated the highest excellence of colour and fabric. The ground was of a soft yet bright shade of warm pink shot with tilleul, and over it were scattered roses in the same and deeper tones of pink, with their green leaves and thorny stems. The petticoats were of pink tulle, over satin to match, strewn with roses set in their own bright foliage, suggestive of early spring and the freshness of newly-budding flowers. Another dress was composed of a skirt of corn-coloured tulle tied with ribbons of a similar cheerful yellow, and trimmed with a large cluster of scarlet poppies and other field flowers. The train, of yellow brocade, was also trimmed with poppies and several furlongs of corn-coloured ribbons. The dresses worn by two sisters of high degree, who have been in mourning for a long time, proved what beautiful effects may be attained by a judicious mingling of neutral tints. The petticoats were white satin, completely covered with flounces of black lace, headed with sparkling jet. The sides and under-train were of black and silver brocade, the design of roses and leaves being in silver upon a black ground. Folds of black velvet separated the brocade from the front. The Court trains were of black velvet, lined with grey satin, and edged with black lace over white. The bodices were velvet, with waistcoats of brocade edged with lace. A constellation of diamonds shone upon the folds of velvet that trimmed them round the shoulders. Many of the wholly white dresses challenged admiration and rivalled those in which the loveliest tints had been combined. Two sisters wore presentation dresses whose soft whiteness was relieved only by the green leaves of the clusters of white lilac with which both trains and petticoats were trimmed. The petticoats of white tulle were trimmed with large clusters of pink roses, from which several petals appeared to have been dropped and to have been caught in the meshes of the tulle below, where they remained. The trains, of white ottoman, were edged with ruches of tulle, and, like the petticoats, trimmed with clusters of large roses. A lovely dress was trimmed round the front with a deep flounce entirely composed of sprays of white lilac. The train, of white poult-de-soie, was draped with tulle and trimmed with clusters of white lilac. One of the loveliest gowns at the Drawing Room was also entirely white. The front was covered with a rich, thick embroidery of pearls and opalescent white beads, which suggested every tint in turn at its softest and brightest. The edges of this tablier were finished with a deep, heavy fringe of similar beads. The train was of plain white velvet, edged with a ruche of white feather trimming. A bodice and train of beautiful velvet brocade, the design of which represented ox-eyed daisies and miniature roses in white and pink, were worn over a petticoat of pale blue satin, veiled with puffings of spotted net, running lengthwise down the front. Garlands of roses and marguerites, copied exactly from nature by the florist's perfected art, trimmed both petticoat and train. A new material, which is a kind of soft white canvas, composed another petticoat, and was lighted up by closely placed small dots of gold. This novel fabric drapes in the very softest folds, and the weight of the gold assists the graceful "fall" of these folds, which were caught up again at either side of the front, and appeared to be held in position by bunches of soft pink roses without foliage. The train was of pale blue satin, trimmed with lace and groups of roses. On another brocade, large roses showed their soft hues of red and pink upon a ground of black satin. At either side, the folds of the plain black satin undertrain flanked the tablier of the brocade, which was edged with a pointed flounce filled in with black lace. The train was of black velvet, bearing two large clusters of ostrich feathers and ribbons in which every tint of the red and pink roses was reproduced. The bodice was made with a waistcoat of the brocade and was trimmed round the shoulders with rows of large cut jet beads. A bunch of shaded feathers rested on one shoulder. An almost wholly black dress, with velvet train and satin under-train, was covered in front with folds of dark blue jet on black tulle.

Many of the trains were hung from one shoulder, a fashion which needs a very good figure to excuse it, unless the effect be modified by arranging folds of tulle, or lace-beaded net from the other shoulder. When the train is hung from both shoulders, as was the case in one *débutante's* dress, the figure is seen at its best, the curves of the waist being lent an appearance of fineness that they may not absolutely possess. The dress in question was a beautiful mixture of tulle, Ottoman softened with clouds of the former fabric, and large clusters of white roses and leaves. One of the most effective dresses was made with a train of poppy-coloured silk, with large, soft ruches

of tulle to match all round the edges, and trimmed with bunches of poppies relieved by sheaves of grass. This was worn with a white bodice and petticoat, both of which were trimmed with poppies and grass to match the train.

Stripes are in such favour that it would have been odd to see them quite omitted from the composition of Court dresses. In one of these the undertrain was made of black and white striped silk, the front of the petticoat being of black velvet on gauze lined with white satin, which showed through the meshes of the gauze. This was draped with lace and white velvet ribbons. The train was of black satin trimmed with lace. In another instance the undertrain was also of black and white striped silk, but the front of the dress was a mass of rich opalescent bead embroidery. The Court train was of black brocaded satin with lines of silver running through it, and the trimming consisted of white ostrich feathers. A petticoat of lead-coloured brocaded silk was also lighted up with this running tracery of silver thread, which in this case suggested the bright lining to a dark cloud, the leaden grey resembling closely the colour of a threatening raincloud. The train of poult-de-soie, draped with grey tulle, was in a lighter tone. The front was trimmed with a beautiful fringe of silver and oxydised metal mixed together. Silver is more popular than it has been for years, and as for feathers and tulle, it is hard to say what the devisers of Court trains or the designers of ball dresses would do without them. Bead embroideries are also in immense demand.

## WESTMINSTER HALL.

In order to enable the members of the Select Committee on the Restoration of Westminster Hall to realise more vividly than would be possible from drawings only what the effect of the proposed work of reconstruction and conservation on the west side of the building would be, models in wood and painted canvas of the projected cloisters at two elevations have been placed in four bays of the flying buttresses. By the removal of the hoardings around the excavation which in the demolition of the old law courts has been made to the level of the ground in the time of Henry III., or perhaps earlier, it was for the first time possible to see how the suggested restorations would appear to spectators standing on the level of the roadway in 'St. Margaret-street, or at various points in the gardens whence a view of the Hall and Houses of Parliament can be obtained. The Earl of Rosebery, accompanied by Mr. Mitford, C.B., of the Office of Works, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and some other members, yesterday visited the place before the arrival of the Committee. Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M.P. (Chairman of the Select Committee), Mr. Beresford-Hope, M.P., Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Mr. Walter, M.P., Sir Henry Holland, M.P., and the several members of the Committee, with Mr. J. L. Pearson, R.A., the architect, whose designs are at present under the consideration of the Committee, went to different points whence the architectural effect of the alternative plans might be judged. The two-storied structure thus provisionally placed in the two bays to the southward showed the appearance of the higher of the projections. The battlemented parapet of this design leaves only the upper half of the windows in the Hall visible from the street. In each bay there are two windows following the design of those on the west side of the Hall, but, of course, proportionately smaller. Beneath are two wider and lower arched windows, together spanning the space between the pair of buttresses, and corresponding in shape with markings discovered on the outside of the Hall at the same level where work of the time of Richard II., or possibly Henry III., has been laid bare. These cloister arches are represented as guarded by iron grills and as filled with tracery and glazed in order to give protection against the weather to the stone of the Hall. The piers of the buttresses are topped with crocketed pinnacles. A model parapet, with plain battlements, is carried along the roof of the Hall, nearly hiding the dormer windows, which it is proposed to remove. The two bays to the north are filled in with a building lower than that just mentioned, and allowing the whole length of the clerestory windows of the Hall to be seen in the street. Instead of cloister arches, this model is in each bay pierced by two small square-headed windows, the lighting of the upper half being effected with windows following in character those of the Hall. Within the loftier of the two temporary structures a staging had been erected which enabled members to form an idea of the size of the committee-rooms, of which four might be constructed, it is suggested, in this upper storey. This particular apartment would be about 38ft. long and 19ft. wide, and would have a roof 14ft. 6in. high at the sides, rising to 17ft. in the middle. The carved corbels of the buttress arches and about half the span of the arch would be within the building, while the remainder of the flying buttress would be seen above the parapet, rising out of the roof as in some still existing examples of work of the time of Richard II. Under the arches, which appear to have supported the roof of "divers lodgments" erected here in that King's time on lines it is now proposed to follow closely, the early Norman masonry has been laid bare, and on some of the stones are distinctly visible the masons' marks. As to the merits of the alternative plans, it may only be safe to say the design for the higher elevation has claims to preference, both on utilitarian and archæological grounds.

## Ecclesiastical.

### PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. H. Arnott, Vicar of Bussage, to Rectory of Beckenham, Kent. Patron, the Rev. W. Cator.

Rev. J. Bailey, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Cowes, to be Chaplain to the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes.

Rev. J. Bampfield, to Rectory of Bradford-with-Hollocombe.

Rev. C. E. B. Barnwell, Vicar of Southbroom, to be Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Wiltshire.

Rev. W. H. Brown, to Rectory of Oxburgh and Vicarage of Foulden, Norfolk. Patrons, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Rev. R. D. L. Clarke, Vicar of Desborough, to Vicarage of St. Lawrence's, Northampton.

Rev. R. S. Dewing, to Rectory of Onehouse, Suffolk. Patron, the Rector of Harlestone.

Rev. H. M. Evill, to Perpetual Curacy of St. John's, Dorman's Land. Patron, the Bishop of Rochester.

Rev. S. Falle, Vicar of Brampton, to be Surrogate for the Diocese of Carlisle.

Rev. F. H. Flynn, Curate of the Parish Church, Teddington, to Vicarage of St. Thomas's, Coventry. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. C. F. Gunton, Curate of St. John's, Cheetham, to Vicarage of Farlam, near Carlisle. Patron, Mr. G. J. Howard.

Rev. W. Hall, to Vicarage of St. Alban's, Bevington, Liverpool. Patron, the Bishop of Liverpool, for this turn.

Rev. I. Haycroft, to Perpetual Curacy of St. Chrysostom, Peckham. Patron, the Bishop of Rochester.

Rev. A. L. C. Heigham, to Rectory of Englefield, Berks. Patron, Mr. Richard Benyon, of Englefield House, Berks.

Rev. F. H. Hill, to Perpetual Curacy of Redcar. Patron, the Earl of Zetland.

Rev. H. C. Holmes, to Vicarage of Hutton Bonville. Patron, Mr. J. R. W. Hildyard, of Hutton Bonville Hall.

Rev. F. J. Hone, to Vicarage of St. John's, Deptford. Patron, the Rev. G. F. Whidborne.

Rev. T. Jones, to Vicarage of Garton-on-the-Wolds. Patron, the Crown.

Rev. W. C. Master, to Rectory of Stanton Fitzwarren, Wilts. Patron, Mr. J. A. Trenchard.

Rev. A. T. Michell, to Rectory of Brampton, Norfolk. Patron, the Rev. Henry Philip Marsham, of Rippon Hall, Hevingham, Norfolk.

Rev. D. K. Moore, to Vicarage of St. Philip's, Kingston-upon-Hull. Patrons, the Trustees.

Rev. T. J. Paske, to Rectory of Creeting St. Peter, Suffolk. Patron, Mrs. Paske, of Creeting St. Peter.

Rev. S. G. Scott, Rector of Woolwich and Surrogate, to be Rural Dean of Woolwich.

Rev. H. Wilson, to be Perpetual Curate of Holme. Patron, the Vicar of Burton.

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Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Carlisle.—Rev. Edward Ernest Stock, M.A., to St. Mary's, Ulverston.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Chester.—Revs. John Pritt Rogers, M.A., to Prestbury; Francis Welch, to Dane Bridge.

Licence to Curacy by the Bishop of Liverpool.—Rev. George Lovett, to St. John-the-Baptist's, Earlestown.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Llandaff.—Revs. Henry Plantagenet Burdett, B.A., to St. Woolos, Newport; William Dovey, B.A., to St. Fagan's, near Cardiff; Alexander Henderson, B.A., to St. Andrew's, Cardiff; David Andrew Jones, B.A. to Mountain Ash; William Moses Ogle, to Holy Trinity, Newport; James Swinnerton, to Tondu, Bridgend.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Norwich.—Revs. William Russell Blunt, B.A., to Thornham-with-Holme-next-the-Sea; Walter Boyce, B.A., to the new district of All Saints', in the parish of St. Matthew, Ipswich; Thomas Augustus Parnell, B.A., to Knapton.

Licences to Curacies by the Bishop of Rochester.—Revs. Henry Bevis, to St. Thomas's, Lambeth, S.E.; Francis Walter Fisher, B.A., to St. Andrew's, Stockwell, S.E.; Ven. George Meade Gibbs, M.A., to Temporary Church of St. Thomas, Telford Park, in the Parish of Christ Church, Streatham.

### OBITUARY.

March 1, the Rev. Robert Cory, B.D., Vicar of Stanground, Hunts, aged 83.

March 5, at Long Clawson Vicarage, the Rev. Thomas Mitchell, for thirty-seven years Vicar of Long Clawson, aged 63.

March 8, at Mabe Vicarage, Penryn, the Rev. John Noon Munford, aged 44.

March 9, at Sloley House, Norfolk, the Rev. James White, Rector of Sloley, aged 96.

March 10, at Scawby Hall, Brigg, the Rev. Robert Sutton.

March 10, at St. Leonards-on-Sea, the Rev. Richard Paynton Pigott, Rector of Ellisfield.

March 12, at Ludgarshall Rectory, the Rev. Henry Stretch, Rector of the parish, aged 62.

March 13, at the Rectory, Pulham St. Mary the Virgin, Norfolk, the Rev. Richard Bond, M.A., aged 78.

March 17, at Folkestone, the Rev. James Gaspard Le Marchand Carey, Vicar of Boreham and Archdeacon of Essex, aged 54.

Rev. Christopher Tweddle, Vicar of All Saints', Rotherhithe, aged 45.

## MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. Wordsworth, late Bishop of Lincoln, who has been in feeble health for some time, has, we deeply regret to learn, been attacked with inflammation of the lungs through having caught a chill last week. He has become gradually weaker, and very faint hopes of his recovery are entertained. Dr. Wordsworth is staying with his son-in-law at Harewood, near Leeds.

The Crown living of Northlaw, near Okehampton, North Devon, of the value of £480 a year, has fallen vacant by the death of the Rev. S. Asher Herbert, who was appointed to the same in 1881.

Another Crown living, that of Pulham, near Harleston, in the diocese of Norwich, of the value of £580 a year, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. Richard Bond, at the age of seventy-eight years, and who held the same since 1857.

The living of Lanchester, in the gift of the Lord Chancellor, is vacant by the death of the Rev. J. Dingle, M.A., who has held the incumbency forty years. The living is of the annual value of £350.

The living of Stanground, near Peterborough, Hunts, of the value of £1,299 a year, in the gift of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has fallen vacant by the death of the Rev. Robert Cory, B.D., son of the late Master of Emanuel College, at the age of eighty-four years. He was rector of the above benefice for forty-three years.

The vicarage of All Saints', Rotherhithe, of the value of £300 a year, and in the gift of the rector, has become vacant by the death of the Rev. Christopher Tweddle, at the age of forty-five years.

The Ven. J. G. Le M. Carey, Archdeacon of Essex, died on Tuesday at Folkestone, where he had been staying for some weeks in the hope of recruiting his health. The Archdeacon, who was an Honorary Canon of St. Albans, has held the living of Boreham, Essex, since 1874, and had been appointed Archdeacon of Essex in 1882. He was intimately connected with nearly all the organisations in the diocese of St. Albans.

Canon Jackson, of Leeds, has offered to accept the pastoral care of the workhouse at a nominal stipend of 10s. per annum. It seems that as the Church people are but three-tenths of the inmates, the guardians have, therefore, felt a difficulty in appointing a regular salaried chaplain.

The amateur art exhibition for the benefit of the Parochial Mission Women Fund will be held, by kind permission of the Duke of Westminster, at Grosvenor House, on May 13 and following days.

The Bishop-Designate of Lincoln (Dr. King) has contributed £200 to the fund which has been recently started to complete the endowment of the Bishopric of Southwell. It appears from a circular just issued by the Earl of Devon and Lord Egerton of Tatton that the See of Southwell was constituted on the basis of £3,000 a year endowment, and a bond to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a further £500 a year, to be subscribed within five years from the date of the foundation of the see; and it is towards the capital required to produce this further £500 that contributions are now being asked for. The Rev. Canon Ingram, 20, Finsbury-square, is acting as hon. secretary. Already about £7,760 is promised, and about £6,300 remains to be collected.

The governors of the Queen Anne's Bounty held their annual meeting on Wednesday for the distribution of their surplus revenue to the 31st of December last in grants to meet benefactions offered by others on behalf of benefices the net incomes of which do not exceed £200 per annum. For want of sufficient funds the governors were again unable to comply with all the applications made to them. The benefices selected for augmentation from a list of ninety-two were seventy-five in number, situate in almost every diocese in England and Wales. The grants given amounted in the aggregate to £19,200, while the benefactions from others accepted to obtain such grants were of the value of £23,313 9s. 8d.

As the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods and Forests have decided on the pulling down of No. 7, Whitehall, the Committee of the Additional Curates Society have taken the ground-floor of Arundel-house, at the corner of Arundel-street, Thames Embankment, immediately opposite the Temple Station District Railway. In its new offices, within easy reach of both the East and West-end, the Society will have the great advantage of a large board-room for meetings. On and after Monday, the 30th inst., the Society's postal address will be, Arundel-house, Thames Embankment, W.C.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in compliance with the request of the Synod of the diocese of Brisbane that he should nominate a Bishop in succession to the Right Rev. Dr. Hale, who recently resigned that see, has offered the appointment to the Rev. W. T. Thornhill Webber, vicar of St. John the Evangelist, Holborn, who has accepted the same. The diocese of Brisbane comprises some 680,000 square miles of Queensland, and has a population of 160,000. The Bishop-nominate graduated at Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1859, and was ordained in the following year to the curacy of Chiswick, from which he was transferred by Bishop Tait, in 1865, to the mission district of St. John's, Red Lion-square, of which he was subsequently appointed the first vicar. In the course of twenty years Mr. Webber has raised upwards of £50,000 for Church purposes, having built schools, clergy-house, and a noble church, designed by Mr. Pearson, R.A., that is generally admitted to be a notable addition to the architectural features of the metropolis, and towards which the Bishop of London's Fund contributed about £8,000. At the consecration of the church the late Bishop, Dr. Jackson, paid a high tribute to the indomitable energy and perseverance of the vicar, whose importunate mendicancy, he said, it was impossible to withstand. Mr. Webber is a moderate High Churchman, but belongs, above all things, to the practical school. He has for many years been a member of the London School Board, and was twelve years a guardian of the Holborn Union, besides filling onerous positions in connection with Church institutions. He is treasurer of the Young Men's Friendly Society, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Girls' Friendly Society, vice-chairman of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, and a member of the court of Sion College. Mr. Webber is also a staunch supporter of the Church of England Temperance Society.

The Bishop of Sodor and Man preached on Sunday morning last at St. Peter's, Cranley-gardens, South Kensington, in aid of the funds of the Consumption Hospital, taking for his text "Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." After enlarging on the mysterious needs-be and purposes of sickness, one being to test the sympathy and love of Christians, the Bishop drew attention to the claims of the hospital, situated in the very same parish for which he desired to plead. He urged that this was a special case, and called for special help. He would like to remove a misapprehension which existed. It was said that the hospital was wealthy. This was not the case. The only fixed income on which it could depend was less than £3,000 a year. The difference of more than £21,000 annually could only be made up by appealing to the benevolent. The Bishop concluded a most impressive and instructive discourse by a touching appeal for help for the hospital. The collection amounted to £70 4s.

The members of the Central Council of Diocesan Conferences met on Tuesday at the offices of the National Society, Westminster; Mr. C. Raikes, M.P., the President, in the chair. There were present—Mr. Beresford-Hope, M.P., Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., Lord Egerton of Tatton, Archdeacon Hannah, Archdeacon Emery, Chancellor Espin, Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., Mr. Sydney Gedge, the Rev. Dr. Thornton, Archdeacon Burney, Mr. Cropper, M.P., Canon Nevill, and Canon Durst. On the motion of Archdeacon Emery the report for the past year of the council was agreed to. Mr. Raikes was unanimously re-elected as president; Mr. W. E. Hubbard, Mr. R. H. Paget, M.P., the Rev. Chancellor Espin, and Archdeacon Richardson as members of the executive committee; Archdeacon Emery, Mr. Cropper, M.P., and Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., as honorary secretaries; and Mr. Magniac, M.P., as treasurer. The Rev. Cecil Moore was elected a secretary in the room of the Rev. W. T. Jones, who had retired; and Canon Smith and Mr. Sydney Gedge members of the committee. The following resolutions of the representatives of diocesan Parliamentary committees were agreed to, after discussion:—

1. That it is desirable that diocesan Parliamentary committees should draw the attention of members of conferences, and of Churchmen generally, to the votes of their representatives in Parliament on all Church questions. And further, the editor of the *National Church* having undertaken to publish Parliamentary division lists, arranged according to dioceses, on all subjects connected with the Church, at the price of 1d., it is recommended that the secretaries of diocesan Parliamentary committees should order a sufficient number of such lists for distribution throughout their several dioceses.

2. That it is desirable that the Parliamentary Committees of Dioceses should undertake that personal communications shall be made through constituents to every member of the House of Commons in the diocese in reference to Bills and resolutions affecting the Church in Parliament, and for this purpose it is recommended that if possible a sub-committee of Churchmen, independent of party politics, should be formed in every constituency, affiliated to the Diocesan Parliamentary Committee to watch over the interests of the Church as affected by the votes of the representatives of the constituency.

Mr. Sydney Gedge moved the following resolution:—

That the following subject be respectfully suggested as suitable for discussion at Diocesan Conferences—"The duty of Churchmen at the present time independently of politics, in view of the persistent efforts to make the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England a political question."

He observed that now the Franchise Bill had passed, the Liberation Society was bringing the question of Disestablishment to the front, and was making it a test question with candidates on their side. Though he should be sorry to think that none but Conservatives were Churchmen, he could not shut his eyes to the fact that there was a certain number of Liberals who were doing all they could to overthrow the Church. On the other hand, Churchmen seem afraid to come forward. The question for the public to consider was, Would the Church do her work better or worse if she were disestablished? If the precedent of the Irish Act were followed—and we could certainly expect no better terms—the vested interests would not be more than a fourth of the Church's property; and though they might be willing to admit that ecclesiastical endowments might be better distributed, no one could say that to deprive her of three-fourths of her income would not add enormously to her difficulties. (Cheers.) The Liberation Society facetiously described its object as a desire to liberate the Church from State control; but if they had their will the Church would enjoy no greater liberty than she did at present. The only result of Disestablishment would be to prevent the Church from doing a great deal of the work she now did for the poor; and if her members would avoid that misfortune they must abandon their present apathy and resolve to put the Church before party. Chancellor Espin, in seconding the motion, said he had hitherto voted as a Liberal, but in the future he certainly intended to put some questions to the candidates who came to him for his vote as to various Church questions which were pressing. The appeals which were made by their opponents to the cupidity of the people should be resisted and counteracted, and it should be carefully shown that the property of the Church was not in any sense the property of the nation. Lord Egerton of Tatton was of opinion that the people ought to be made to understand that it was to their own interests that the Church should be maintained in its present position. Mr. Beresford-Hope said that this matter was now a grim reality, now that there were 2,000,000 "dark" men knocking at their doors. The people required knowledge, but it must be knowledge that they could digest. No one could fathom the depth of the ignorance, the stupidity, and the prejudice of the English voters. It was necessary to teach them that in disestablishing the Church they would be cutting their own throats and getting rid of their best friend. Archdeacon Hannah, Canon Nevill, and others having addressed the council, the resolution was agreed to. The question of ecclesiastical dilapidations was then considered. The Council continued its meeting on Wednesday, and the chair was occupied in the latter part of the meeting by Mr. Hubbard, M.P. The first subject of the day was on a question which, for obvious reasons, had to be dealt with very delicately. This was entitled "Social Purity," and upon it the Bishop of Newcastle gave an address. The subject of infidelity also led to a long discussion, and it was proposed to affirm that the present progress of open and avowed infidelity in this country rendered it incumbent on Churchmen to unite heartily in discovering and employing the most effectual means for arresting it. In the course of the discussion, alarm having been expressed at the fact that Northampton had elected an avowed Atheist, the speaker stated that the Church was making great progress in that town, and that the member referred to had been elected because his political opinions were in harmony with the political opinions of the majority of the electors, who distinguished between political and religious questions.

The Incorporated Society for promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels held its usual monthly meeting at the Society's house, 7, Whitehall, on Thursday, Mr. Edward Hussey in the chair. There were also present the Revs. Canon Cazenove, C. A. Jones, C. F. Norman, Mr. J. Boodle, Mr. J. F. France, Mr. J. Hilton, Mr. Arthur Powell, and the Rev. R. Milburn Blakiston (secretary). It is a matter of interest to notice that the first meeting of this Society at 7, Whitehall, was held on the 18th of March, 1850, and Mr. E. Hussey (the chairman of this meeting) and Mr. A. Powell were both present on that occasion. Grants of money were made in aid of the following objects:—

Building a new church at Preston, St. Saviour, near Brighton, £120; enlarging or otherwise improving the accommodation in the churches at Brill, All Saints, near Thame, Bucks, £40; Bexhill, St. Mark, near Hastings, £50; Exbourne, St. Mary, Devon, £30; Great Wollaston, St. John the Evangelist, near Shrewsbury, £15; Tangmere, St. Andrew, near Chichester, £20; and Wentnor, St. Michael, near Bishop's Castle, Salop, £30. Grants were also made from the Special Mission Buildings Fund towards building mission churches at Dudley in the parish of Killingworth, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, £25; and High Felling, Durham, £30.

The following grants for works completed were also paid:—

Towards building new churches at Middleton Junction, St. Gabriel, near Chadderton, Lancashire, £50; and South Lambeth, All Saints', Surrey, £220; and towards enlarging and restoring the churches at Aston, St. Giles, near Ludlow, Hereford, £15; Chard, Somerset (on account), £75; Frindsbury, All Saints', near Rochester, £50; Hope, St. Cynfarch's, near Mold, Flint, £15; Little Waltham, St. Martin, near Chelmsford, £10; Nottingham, Emmanuel (on account), £200; Staverton, St. Mary, near Daventry, £15; Upholland, St. Thomas, near Wigan, £60; and West Ham, Essex, mission building, £20. The Society likewise accepted the trust of a sum of money as a repair fund for Stroud Parish Room.

In consequence of the intended pulling down of No. 7, Whitehall, by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Woods and Forests, the offices of the Incorporated Church Building Society will be transferred immediately after Easter to No. 2, Dean's-yard, Westminster.

## THE COURT.

The Queen and Royal family and the members of her Majesty's household attended Divine service on Sunday in the private chapel of Windsor Castle. The Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster and the Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated. The Dean of Westminster preached the sermon.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, Prince Henry of Battenberg, and Princess Margaret

and Prince Arthur of Connaught left Windsor Castle at 3.30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and arrived at Buckingham Palace at 4.30 p.m.

Her Majesty returned to Windsor Castle on Thursday afternoon.

According to present arrangements, the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* will arrive on the 28th inst. in readiness to embark the Queen and Princess Beatrice at Port Victoria for the Continent. On the following Monday evening, after embarking the Royal travellers, the yacht will anchor at the Government moorings near Sheerness dockyard for the night, and cross to Flushing the following morning. No salutes will be fired from the war vessels in Sheerness harbour.

On Wednesday, the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Albert Victor, left London in the evening for the purpose of personally congratulating the Emperor of Germany on the attainment of his eighty-eighth birthday. Their Royal Highnesses during their stay in the German capital will be the guests of the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, and will remain on the Continent till the 27th inst., when they return to England.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, President of the International Inventions Exhibition, has fixed Monday, the 4th of May, for the opening of the Exhibition.

The Duchess of Cambridge has been suffering for some time from an attack of bronchitis, and is under the care of Sir Oscar Clayton. The attack has now fortunately subsided, and her Royal Highness's progress towards recovery, though necessarily slow, is entirely satisfactory.

In pursuance of resolutions decided upon at a recent meeting, a committee has been formed to raise subscriptions for the foundation of a scholarship, in the name of Mdme. Sainton-Dolby, at the Royal Academy of Music. Mdme. Sainton, a King's scholar, received all her musical education in Tenterden-street, and as a singer was the most distinguished pupil the Academy ever had. More than £300 has been already promised.

The date of the meeting of the Irish Bishops in Rome after Easter is, it appears, of long standing, and was appointed in the course of last year. The intention of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to visit Ireland was at that time wholly unknown.

It is stated that the members of the late General Gordon's family have decided to publish his diary in its entirety if they receive it so from the Government. The work will be published in as cheap a form as possible.

Tuesday being St. Patrick's Day, the usual custom of wearing green ribands and sprigs of shamrock was observed by many of the Irish residents of the metropolis, many of whom made the day a holiday. Perfect order, however, prevailed, most of the men having, in accordance with the wish of Cardinal Manning, pledged themselves to abstain from intoxicating liquors. The band of the Scots Guards, which did duty with the detachment mounting guard at St. James's Palace in the morning, played a selection of Irish airs in honour of the occasion during the ceremony of mounting and changing the guard.

The following ladies have joined Major Gildea's Committee for the Relief of the Wives and Families of Soldiers and Sailors on Foreign Service and the Reserves:—The Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Countess Fitzwilliam, the Countess of Dartmouth, Lady Constance Stanley, Lady Ampthill, Mrs. Herbert Deeds, Mrs. Stanley Clarke, Mrs. Feilding, Miss Hozier, Miss Kathleen Gildea (hon. sec.). Ladies in the country are invited to form affiliated sub-committees. Communication from those willing to help and applications for assistance may be made to the Hon. Sec., 20, Phillimore-gardens, W.

The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Placid Burchell, who was the only mitred abbot of the Benedictine Order in England, and was appointed by the late Pope Pius IX. Abbot of Westminster, died at St. Mary's Priory, Wootton, on Saturday, in the 75th year of his age.

Lady Rose Lovell died suddenly at Hinchelsea, New Forest, on Thursday, the 12th inst. She was the second daughter of Henry, seventh Duke of Beaufort, by his second wife; was born in February, 1829; and married 4th October, 1846, Captain Francis Frederick Lovell.

Sir William Wellesley Knighton, Bart., died at Blendworth Lodge, near Horndean, Hants, on Friday last, aged 74. The late baronet was the only son of Sir William Knighton, Bart. (many years keeper of the Privy Purse to George IV.). He succeeded to the baronetcy in 1836, and married two years afterwards, Clementina, daughter of Mr. John Jameson, of Philadelphia. She died last year. In default of issue the baronetcy becomes extinct.

A correspondent thus writes to one of our contemporaries:—

"The very noble last words of the great Sir Richard Grenville, one of the greatest of Queen Elizabeth's heroes, are so applicable to General Gordon that I venture to send them to you: 'Here die I, Richard Grenville, with a joyful and quiet mind; for that I have ended my life as a true soldier ought, fighting for his country, Queen, religion, and honour; my soul willingly departing from this body, leaving behind the lasting fame of having behaved as every valiant soldier is in his duty bound to do.' Were an epitaph required for Gordon, could he have one more fitting?"

About eight o'clock on Wednesday night a terrible accident occurred to a Salvation Army procession at Wyke, near the town. A horse attached to a cart took fright at the music of the Army's band and dashed through the procession. Twenty persons were knocked down and injured. A boy named Wragg, of Cleckheaton, was killed, and six others are in a serious condition at the infirmary. The instruments of the band were smashed.

EASTER DECORATIONS should now claim attention, and the advantage of sending all orders for materials, &c., at the earliest possible date cannot be overlooked. Messrs. TERRY & Co., Little Denmark-street, Soho, London, issue a very fully illustrated Catalogue, which they post free to the Clergy. The Catalogue contains many new designs for Easter Banners, Easter Texts, and all Materials in demand for Church Festival Decoration.

Sir Justin Gerald Aylmer, Bart., of Donadea Castle, Kildare, Ireland, died on the 13th inst., at Trinity College. His death was the result of a fall from a bicycle on Thursday last, when riding in the neighbourhood of Cambridge.

Mr. Charles Bertram, who has taken up his quarters in the drawing-room at James's Hall, is a new "magician" of great accomplishments. Following the Shakespearean maxim, "Dull not device with coldness and delay," he performs his various feats of legerdemain with fervid zest and dazzling rapidity. His tricks, for the most part pretty and ingenious, are rendered the more bewildering by his explanation of their method of execution. In one instance, and one only, is the mystery revealed with distinctness. He undertakes to make himself "invisible," and succeeds to perfection. The way he does it is by walking out of the room—a plan majestic in its own simplicity. Miss J. Ruf discourses bright music on the pianoforte.

Under the presidency of the Lord Mayor there was a meeting on Saturday at the Mansion House of the Committee of the fund for providing a national memorial to General Gordon. After a statement by Admiral Sir E. Inglefield, it was resolved, on the motion of the Prince of Wales, seconded by the Duke of Cambridge, that the form of the memorial should be an international hospital to be erected at Port Said, where a grant of land for the purpose had been made by the Suez Canal Company. The Prince of Wales suggested that a ward in the hospital should be called the Stewart Ward. A Sub-Committee to carry out the scheme was then appointed, and it was agreed that in the event of any balance of the fund remaining after defraying the cost of the erection and completion of the hospital, it should be applied to some benevolent and useful institution or purpose. The speakers to these resolutions included the Duke of Edinburgh, Earl Granville, the Lord Chancellor, and Cardinal Manning.

A meeting of the Victoria Institute took place last Monday at its rooms, when Mr. W. P. James read a paper "On the Relation of Fossil Botany to Theories of Evolution," in which he gave a *résumé* of the whole question with which his paper dealt, and drew attention to the large number of plants now growing, of which we found the counterparts in their fossil state in the rocks, and to the great absence of forms between any two species. The author quoted the opinions of many botanists, and at the conclusion of his paper some communications were read, including one from Sir Richard Owen, to whom an early proof of the paper had been submitted, in which he expressed his regret that the state of his health forbad his being present at the reading of a most interesting and instructive paper. Dr. Hicks, F.R.S., Professor Carruthers, F.R.S., Dr. Walker, F.L.S., Mr. S. R. Pattison, F.G.S., and others took part in the discussion of the paper.

The following *menu* which an Anglo-Indian paper prepared for the National Liberal Club's banquet to the Marquis of Ripon is a little late for that event, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, but as there are no doubt plenty more functions of the kind to follow, it may still come in usefully. The *menu* was inscribed, the funny fellow adds, on "a Wolseley *carte blanche*," and ran as follows:—

Afghanistan à la Russe.
Soudan Garrisons Stewed in their own Juice.
Canards à la *Times*.
Minced African Allies.
Wild Geese chased by the Foreign Office.
Hashed British Interests.
New Guinea Humble Pie.
Slices of Turkey à la Russe.
Curried Favour with the Native Press.
German Vinegar. French Mustard.
Milk and Water Cabinet Pudding.
Natives (quite equal to the English).
Cooked Telegrams and Raw Recruits.

Lord Carlingford and Mr. Mundella on Monday received a deputation of the representatives of deaf and dumb institutions of the United Kingdom and Ireland to urge that State aid should be given to the education of deaf and dumb children, and expressed their sympathy with the deputation, but the matter, they said, would require fresh legislation and further taxes upon the community. They would, however, do what they could to impress on the Government the necessity of something being done.

A lecture was delivered last week at a meeting of the Balloon Society at the Aquarium, Westminster, by Mr. Charles Marvin, on "The Russians at the Gates of Herat." At the outset of his remarks the lecturer remarked that Russia, taking advantage of our embarrassment in Egypt and our complications with Germany and France, had occupied certain districts of Afghanistan, which, on the showing of her own official maps, belong to the Ameer, and by placing her troops alongside the Afghan outposts had brought about a condition of things that might result in war at any moment. The situation had grown out of the action of Russia against the Turcomans, culminating in the capture of Geok Tepe and the annexation of Merv, and we had weakly allowed her subsequently to push on to the key of India. He was of opinion that as soon as the Egyptian difficulties arose, Russia determined to reopen the Eastern Question by moving in Central Asia, and the lesser game now being played on the banks of Murghab and Heri Rud merely masked the greater game on which Russia staked her national progress. The lecturer went on to set forth the reasons that induced him to form that opinion, and showed that it would be quite consistent with Russia's former conduct if, in the absence of any defence at Herat, she took advantage of the feeble forces on the Afghan frontier to smash Sir Peter Lumsden's party and burst her way into the key of India. Having described the process by which the Russians persuaded the inhabitants of Merv to surrender their independence, Mr. Marvin proceeded to detail the incidents connected with the move on Sarakhs. Russia then completed her organisation of the new territory and made a fresh advance into Afghanistan, pushing up to every point leading to Herat. Simultaneously with this Russia endeavoured to carry the conflict into our very midst by sending M. Lessar to London to occasion a split in English public opinion. There could be no doubt that intrigues were going on in London for that purpose, while our best experts, most qualified to deal with the question, were far away. References had been made to Penjdeh, which the Russians now endeavoured to show from English maps was without the Afghan boundary; but it was noteworthy that nearly all the Russian maps published previously to the swoop upon Merv placed Penjdeh within the territory of the Ameer. He (Mr. Marvin) had a map once belonging to General Skobeleff, in which not only was Penjdeh marked as being in Afghanistan but also Pulikhatun and Ak Robat—in one brief word, every inch of territory now occupied by Russia south of Sarakhs. There could be no doubt that an active intrigue in Russian interests was going on in this country. Sir Peter Lumsden and his staff were able and willing to do everything in their power to safeguard our interests, provided they were supported by the Government at home, and he (the lecturer) protested most earnestly against the statements put forth in some quarters, charging them with having brought about the present complications. It was most important that public opinion in England should be united on this question of Russian aggression, for otherwise English diplomacy would be paralysed, and the efforts of the Government would be rendered futile. That would be a lamentable event, for the Russian troops were closer to Herat than our own troops were to Candahar, and it would require a strong display of unanimous public feeling to persuade Russia to withdraw them again. Personally, he did not think Russia would withdraw, and if so, it was impossible to see how a pacific solution could be arrived at. Russia had given evidence that she would seize the occasion of our moving towards Herat to herself take possession, and that the leading Russian newspapers had recently been questioning our right to concern ourselves with the key to India. The warlike articles of the Russian Press looked as though there was a desire to inflame the Russian people against England with a view to the reopening of the Eastern Question. In conclusion the lecturer pointed out that a powerful force should be sent to Kurrachee, and by means of the railway and the road through the Bolan Pass to Quetta, whence the distance to Herat was but a fourth of that from Cairo to Khartoum. If the Italian alliance were worth anything, he thought it should be made available now. The present was the most favourable time for action, because in a few weeks' time the Volga, now closed by ice, would be open, and Russia could then transport troops with facility. If we waited until Russia concentrated large forces in the Transcaspian region and consolidated her new position the power of protecting the key of India would have passed from our hands.

At the Bridgwater County Court last week a photographer, of Bridgwater, sued Joseph Palmer, a builder, for wilful damage to a portrait. Plaintiff said he invited defendant to sit for his portrait, which the latter did, and, being pleased with the result, ordered and paid for twelve copies. Defendant afterwards found that the plaintiff had enlarged and painted the portrait, and that it was being hawked about the country by a canvasser. Meeting the latter one day, and finding him in the possession of the portrait he smashed it with his foot. The judge said the defendant had no business to take the law into his own hands; but, on the other side, plaintiff had no right to enlarge and send about a photograph without the authority of the original, and if he did so it must be at his own risk. He must give a verdict for the glass and case, 7s., and treat the photo as a piece of common cardboard, worth say 1s. 2d.—total 8s. 2d. with costs.

Mr. Gladstone has offered to restore, at his own expense, the Edinburgh City Cross as a memorial of his political connection with the district, and in recognition of the kindness he has always met with at the hands of the citizens. The matter has been considered in the Lord Provost's Committee, and has been mentioned to members of council, by whom the proposal has been received with cordial appreciation. As a site for the intended structure the middle of the open space between the Central Police-office and St. Giles's Cathedral has been indicated as specially appropriate, from its proximity to the spot where the cross formerly stood. This suggestion has met with Mr. Gladstone's approval, and the subject will immediately be brought before the Town Council.

The Bishop-elect of London (Dr. Temple), presiding at the Diocesan Board of Education, held at the Training College at Exeter on Thursday, said, in parting with the diocese of Exeter and in parting with the work of the religious instruction of the young, he felt that he was leaving the work he cared most about. There was some satisfaction in feeling that, taking it altogether, the work in the diocese was going on fairly well. The present was a great crisis. Education would every day become more and more of the utmost importance in its influence on the general course of the national life. There was no doubt at all that there was penetrating down into the most uneducated portion of our countrymen every kind of scepticism and objection to all revealed by God. It was therefore necessary, in order to enable His people to hold their ground against those who objected to the Christian religion, that they should have the best religious instruction and training of habits that could be given to them.

The twentieth annual meeting of the Corporation for Middle-class Education was held on Thursday at the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor in the chair. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, said the schools established by the Corporation had done very valuable work, and he hoped their usefulness would not be depreciated in the future by adverse circumstances. The report of the committee, which was read by Mr. Sebastian Gassiot, stated that the average number of scholars in attendance during the year had been 920, which was considerably below the number reported in previous years. The falling off was, however, confined to the lower classes of the school. The pupils were now, as a rule, much older at entrance than formerly, and the average length of stay was less. This the Council attributed to the altered conditions of the educational arrangements of the metropolis, the school being now used as a means of continuing or completing education commenced in the Elementary schools. Recognising this fact, a number of scholarships had been founded by the Mitchell trustees, available for scholars at Board schools. At the last examination the examiner reported that the school was doing a difficult work well, and neither zeal, ability, nor judgment were wanting in its direction. The only endowment possessed by the school was the contributions from the Clothworkers' and Drapers' Companies, and the Council appealed to other companies to help them carry on the work.

The 102nd anniversary festival of the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick was held on Tuesday night at the Freemasons' Tavern, Earl Cowper, K.G., the president of the year, occupying the chair. The company present included the Earl of Devon, the Earl of Wicklow, Admiral Sir Lewis Jones, Sir E. W. Stafford, General Couchman, Colonel French, Captain Shaw, Mr. W. Findlater, M.P., Mr. W. H. Brereton, Mr. E. B. Marlay, and Mr. E. King. After the dinner the children, of whom there are 450 now being educated in the schools in Stamford-street, and who are also clothed at the cost of the society and provided with a daily breakfast, walked through the room, and by their healthy look and condition testified to the care bestowed on them, under the supervision of the indefatigable secretary, Mr. E. King. The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured, the toast of the evening, "Success to the Benevolent Society of St. Patrick," was proposed by the chairman, who announced with regret that the society was not so prosperous as it ought to be. It had existed now for over 100 years, having been founded before the Union, in that twenty years which are looked upon as the golden years of the Irish Parliament, while it had endured throughout the troubles of '98 and the subsequent period when murders were far more frequent than even in recent times. It would be a great disgrace if the institution were allowed to fall to the ground now after surviving so many difficulties and trials. They were all assured that England would never allow the union with Ireland to be dissolved. As an Englishman he would say that if they were to allow their anger at the deeds of the dynamite party to cause them to extend their enmity to the Irish nation or or to cease to do their best to conciliate and help, they would be playing into the hands of their enemies in a degree which those persons would certainly appreciate. The unfortunate people for whom this institution was founded were especially the sufferers by these crimes, for many of them had been thrown out of employment in consequence, and the children of those who were guilty ought not to be made to suffer for the faults of their parents. To let this institution perish at this moment would be, therefore, not only a crime but a blunder. He earnestly commended the institution to their sympathy. At the close of the toast list the treasurer stated that the subscriptions of the evening amounted to £745 4s. 6d.; that the Queen had sent her annual subscription of 100 guineas, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 50 guineas, and the chairman of the evening had given £50, and that the subscriptions altogether, with that announced that evening, amounted to £5,000.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending March 14 was—medical 985, surgical 573; total 1,558, of which 592 were new cases.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: Its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

Anyone afflicted with stammering or stuttering should read a little book (written by a gentleman who cured himself after suffering for more than thirty years), to be had from the Author, Mr. B. Beasley, Green Bank House, Hall Green, near Birmingham, for 13 stamps.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in Packets, labelled—"JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

### BIRTHS.

March 10, at 64, Hereford-road, W., the wife of the Rev. VALENTINE JOHN AUGUSTUS BROWNE, of a daughter.

March 13, at Long Benton Vicarage, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the wife of the Rev. ERNEST S. GROVER, of a son.

March 15, at Lanehurst, Albourne, Sussex, the wife of Sir DANIEL A. LANGE, of a daughter.

March 15, at Sneinton Dale, Nottingham, the wife of the Rev. J. WHEELER, Vicar of St. Philip's, Nottingham, of a daughter.

March 17, at the School House, Hawkshead, near Ambleside, the wife of the Rev. R. M. SAMSON, M.A., Head Master, of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

Feb. 3, at Hongkong, THOMAS FRANCIS HUGHES Deputy Commissioner of Customs, Canton, to MARGARET EUGENIE, third daughter of the Hon. JAMES DEVER, of St John, New Brunswick.

March 11, at the parish church, Leafield, Oxon, the Rev. HERBERT M. WARD, M.A., to ALICE LOUISA JANE, eldest daughter of JOHN S. CALVERT, Esq., of Fairspier House, Witney.

March 14, at the parish Church, Stoke-Bishop, J. HARTLEY WICKSTEED, of Leeds, to MARY, elder daughter of JOHN HANCOCK, J.P., of Penarth Lodge, formerly of Lurgan, county Armagh.

March 14, by the Rev. Flavell Cooke, Chaplain of the Foundling, the Rev. G. P. GRAHAM COSSERAT, Rector of Winfrith, Dorset, to the LADY ANNE MURRAY, eldest sister of the Earl of Leitrim.

### DEATHS.

Feb. 23, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, AMELIA, widow of the late Rev. W. JONES, of King Henry's-road, South Hampstead, aged 80.

March 13, at Blendworth, Horndean, Sir WILLIAM WELLESLEY KNIGHTON, Bart., in the 75th year of his age.

March 13, at Madeira, CAROLINE KING, daughter of the late Hon. George King, of Fryern, Storrington, Sussex.

March 14, at Singapore, KATHARINE ELIZABETH EDITH, wife of FRANCIS WORSLEY, Esq., and youngest daughter of the late Rev. Francis Pickford, Rector of Hagworthingham, Lincolnshire.

March 15, at Montreux, BRADFORD EDWARD, eldest surviving son of the Rev. ROBT. BURDETT BURGESS, Rector of Chickney, Essex.

March 15, at Cambridge, Sir JUSTIN GERALD AYLMER, Bart., of Donadea Castle, county Kildare, aged 21.

March 18, at 3, Lordship-terrace, Stoke Newington, FRANCES CHARLOTTE, wife of the Rev. T. BARON HART, late of Paris, aged 63.

## LATEST NEWS.

Souakim, March 20.

Our force started again at daylight this morning for Hasheen. It is believed that a battle is imminent on the hills just beyond that place. The troops have taken two days' rations, and no less than 23,000 gallons of water. To-day the Gardner battery of six guns has been taken forward for the first time. The guns are drawn by mules. Captain Crooke, of the marines, is in command of the artillery. The transport and commissariat arrangements on the march are under the direction of Captain Decasson.

A special telegram to the *Daily Telegraph* received last night from the front says:—After five hours' fighting, Osman Digma's position was occupied, and the enemy's loss was very heavy.

The Hague, March 20.

The funeral of Sakurada, the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires for the Netherlands, took place to-day. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the entire diplomatic corps were present.

Brussels, March 20.

In the Chamber of Representatives to-day M. Bouvier brought forward an interpellation with regard to the rumour current yesterday that a conversion of the Four per Cent. Stock into Three-and-a-Half or Three per Cent. Stock, was contemplated. M. Beermaert, the Premier and Minister of Finance, declined this question, which he said could not be discussed on a simple motion. The Minister added that the Government had not yet formed any opinion on the matter.

Vienna, March 20.

In last night's sitting of the Lower House of the Reicharath the discussion of the Budget was concluded, and the Financial Bill adopted without debate and in accordance with the proposals of the Committee.

The *Daily Chronicle* publishes the following summary of a long despatch which has just reached it from its special correspondent at Korti:—

Korti, Friday.—Mudir of Dongola is about to attack the rebels at Hassaniyet. It is reported he will afterwards, if successful, move upon Berber. He has 800 Egyptian soldiers with him, three guns, and one Gatling. The Khabbabish and Shagiyeh tribes have joined him. The Mudir is now twelve miles above Merawee.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Morning Post*, telegraphing on Thursday, says:—"I learn from St. Petersburg that a council of generals has been held to consider the present situation in Afghanistan, and that they have declared that Russia must either withdraw or march at once on Herat, as the present positions of the troops are by no means secure. It is reported that the generals urged an immediate advance, Herat at present being strongly fortified."

## LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

In the Upper House, Lord Thurlow's motion for the opening of museums on Sundays was brought forward.

In the Lower House, Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Sir Stafford Northcote, said the Government could not agree to postpone the decision of the Egyptian financial proposals until after Easter. The view of the Government was that if the papers were in the hands of members on Monday next, there would be ample time to prepare for the discussion on the following Monday.

The Conservative leaders had a consultation on Thursday on the Egyptian financial agreement, and it was, the *Standard* believes, decided that it would be the duty of the party to offer a strong opposition to this arrangement. It is thought that when the country fully understands the character of the agreement it will become highly unpopular. Its effect, in all probability, will be in two years to hand over Egypt to international control, and to deprive this country of all the advantages she had gained by her sacrifices and exertions in the cause of order and good government in Egypt.

A Cabinet Council was held at Mr. Gladstone's official residence in Downing-street yesterday afternoon. Ministers met at two o'clock, all being present except Earl Spencer.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has addressed a circular letter on emigration to the clergy and laity, urging that increased exertions should be made for the religious welfare of the vast number of emigrants who leave our shores. His Grace says a great proportion of these emigrants belong to the Church of England, and it is a plain duty to provide that they shall not in the "Greater Britain" lose the privileges and blessings of the Church which they own. A scheme has been undertaken by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; agencies have been provided at emigration ports to look after the interests of the emigrants at their departure and on their voyage, arrangements have been made either for a clergyman to accompany the emigrants or one to meet them and welcome them at the port of arrival, and commendatory letters are provided for gratuitous supply to the parochial clergy. The colonial Bishops and the Bishops of America and other countries are co-operating in these plans, and are making arrangements for the care of immigrants.

It was reported in Dublin yesterday on what is stated to be good authority that Cardinal Simeoni, on behalf of the Pope, had sent for Dr. Donnelly, Assistant Bishop of Dublin, and had directed him to go to Rome at once, and without waiting for the other Irish Prelates who will shortly be received by the Pope. It this be correct, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, it would seem that the Holy See intends to pass over Dr. Walsh, President of Maynooth College, who was last week placed at the head of a list of three names to be submitted to the Vatican, from which a successor to the late Cardinal MacCabe as Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin was to be chosen. The selection by the priests of Dr. Walsh, a moderate Home Ruler, caused general satisfaction in Ireland, but the election by the Pope of Dr. Donnelly, who would, it is believed, follow in the footsteps of the late Cardinal, would greatly exasperate the Nationalists, who would attribute the appointment to British influence brought to bear at the Vatican.

## SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Captain Barker, R.A., eldest son of the late Sir George Barker, R.A., K.C.B., and Miss Nessie Peel, youngest daughter of the late Major Peel, of Aylesmore, in the county of Gloucester, and Mrs. Lawrence Peel, of Southwell-gardens.

Also between the Hon. F. A. R. Russell, son of the late Earl Russell, and Alice, eldest daughter of the late T. S. Godfrey, of Balderton Hall, Notts, and stepdaughter of Major General H. Lowther, Balfour, late R.A.

Also between the Hon. Ronald Leslie Melville and Miss Portman, eldest daughter of the Hon. William Berkeley Portman, M.P.

Also between Mr. Ernest A. Brocklehurst, and Miss Beatrice Webster, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Charles Fox Webster, and stepdaughter of Mr. Copland, of Goscote Hall, Leicester.

Also between Mr. Walter D. Bovill, son of the late Sir William Bovill, and Mrs. Augustus Davies, widow of Captain A. B. Davies (22nd Regiment), of the Mardy, Merthyr Tydfil, and daughter of the late Hon. Frederick Dudley Ryder.

Also between Mr. James Macrone Douie, B.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Karnat, Punjaub, and Miss Frances Mary Elizabeth Roe, eldest daughter of Mr. Charles Arthur Roe, B.C.S., Judicial Commissioner, Punjaub.

A distinguished and numerous congregation assembled at Westminster Abbey on Thursday afternoon on the occasion of the marriage of Sir Edward Baldwin Malet, K.C.B., British Ambassador to the Court of Berlin, with the Lady Ermyntrude Russell, younger daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford. The wedding party began to arrive soon after three o'clock, the ceremony being appointed for four, and amongst the relations and friends of both families present we noticed H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the German Ambassador and Countess Marie and Olga Münster, the French Ambassador and Mdme. Waddington, the Netherlands Minister and Countess de Bylandt, the Spanish Minister, the Belgian Minister, the Swedish Minister, the Danish Minister and Mdme. de Falbe, Count and Countess de Florian, Blum Pasha, the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, the Marquis and Marchioness of Tavistock, the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury, the Marquis and Marchioness of Sligo, the Dowager Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Lord Chancellor and Lady Sophia Palmer, the Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Margaret Cecil, Earl Sydney, Countess Russell and Lady Agatha Russell, the Earl and Countess of Bradford, the Earl and Countess of Galloway, Earl Stanhope, Earl and Countess De La Warr, Countess Waldegrave, the Earl and Countess of Jersey, the Earl and Countess of Sefton, Earl and Countess Beauchamp, Elizabeth Countess of Harrington, the Earl of Arran and Ladies Gore, Viscount and Viscountess Bury, Viscountess Strangford, Lord and Lady William Compton, Lord Charles Russell, Lord and Lady Arthur Russell, Lord Lionel Cecil, Lord and Lady Sudeley, Lord Sackville Cecil, Lord and Lady John Manners, Lady Jane Dundas, Baroness Burdett-Coutts and Mr. Burdett-Coutts, Lord and Lady Auckland, Lady Henry Somerset, Lord Gerard, Lady Elizabeth Biddulph and Misses Adeane, Lord and Lady Hammond, and many others. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. Graham, of Netherby, as best man; and the bridesmaids, six in number, were the Ladies Edeline and Mary Sackville, daughters of Earl and Countess De La Warr; Lady Egidia Hastings, sister of the Duchess of Norfolk; Miss Flora Russell, and Miss Cecely Sackville West, cousins of the bride; and Miss Ella St. Lo Malet, cousin of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were very prettily dressed in bodices and tunics of ivory white satin Français, over petticoats of white striped frisé velvet. The tunics were looped on the left side near the back with long sashes of white moiré ribbon, and the bodices were finished with plaited fichus of the satin, under which were waistcoats of white mousseline de soie. They had Henry IV. hats of white plush, with white feathers. Each wore a gold brooch, surrounded with pearls, and having the monogram of the bride and bridegroom in diamonds in the centre, the gift of the latter, and carried a bouquet of white azaleas and lilies of the valley. The bride, who was accompanied to the Abbey by her parents, alighted at the west door at twenty minutes past four o'clock, and was met by the clergy and choir. The bride's dress was a very beautiful one; the long square train falling loosely from the waist, and the bodice was of ivory-white frisé brocaded velvet on a satin ground; the design of the brocade is floral, the centre of each blossom being embroidered in silver, and the petals outlined in pearls; the petticoat is of satin, the drapery across the top of the front being of brocade, beneath which are three flounces of exquisite point d'Alençon, fastened at intervals with sprays of orange blossoms, and on each side meeting the train. The bodice, which had plastron and cuffs of lace, was finished with a panel of brocade, clusters of orange blossoms at the throat and waist. Her veil, a very large one, was of point d'Alençon, and was fastened over a wreath of orange blossoms with diamond ornaments, the gift of her father; and she wore the diamond bracelet presented to her by the bridegroom. Her bouquet was composed of orange blossoms, lilies-of-the-valley, gardenias, stephanotis, lilac, orchids, and other choice exotics. The Duchess of Bedford, mother of the bride, was very handsomely attired in olive-green velvet, beautifully embroidered in gold and bronze beads, her bonnet being of gold tulle, trimmed with olive-green velvet leaves. Lady Ela Russell, sister of the bride, wore mouse-coloured velvet shot with pink, with jacket, muff, and bonnet *en suite*, the latter being ornamented with pink feathers. The Duchess of Norfolk looked well in bronze green velvet, and bonnet to match. The Marchioness of Tavistock, grey brocaded velvet on a satin ground, and bonnet to match in two shades. The Countess of Derby was in grenat velvet, with bonnet *en suite*. The Countess of Galloway wore geranium red velvet, with gold and red bonnet. Mdme. Waddington, blue velvet ottoman. The Countess of Mar wore black velvet, draped over very pale blue satin, handsomely embroidered in silver feathers, with blue and silver, muff and bonnet to correspond. Mrs. Malet, sister-in-law of the bridegroom, was in pale plum-coloured satin, covered with black lace, over which she wore a rather long jacket, beautifully embroidered in gold, and silver Chinese work on pale plum satin, given her by the bridegroom. The Bishop of Winchester officiated, assisted by the Very Rev. Dr. Bradley, Dean of Westminster, the bride being given away by her father. On leaving the Abbey the bride and bridegroom and their nearest relatives returned to Eaton-square, when the bride changed her dress, and Sir Edward and Lady Ermyntrude started for Holwood, the Countess of Derby's place in Kent, where they intend spending the early days of their honeymoon. The bride's travelling costume was of bronze green cashmere over a fancy checked velvet skirt. The bodice and drapery of cashmere and revers of the velvet and gold passementerie, and she wore a Henry IV. hat of velvet trimmed with Impian pheasant. Her Majesty sent the bride a valuable Indian cashmere shawl and a pair of blue and gold china vases; and the Duchess of Albany's present was a large round silver box. The Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz's present to the bride was a gold bracelet, set with diamonds and pearls. The Khedive sent a double-round necklace, bracelet, brooch, and earrings of scarabees and other ancient bits, with gold pendants of Egyptian design. There was a good show of jewellery, amongst which the presents of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford to their daughter were conspicuous for their beauty. They comprised a tiara, necklace, earrings, and bracelet of diamonds; two diamond rings, pearl necklace (three rows); tiara, necklace, and earrings of peridots, set with diamonds; three bracelets, one of diamonds and corals, the second of diamonds and turquoises, and the third of diamonds and pearls; and diamond and ruby ring. The Duke and Duchess also presented her Ladyship with an ebony and gold dressing-case, with gold and turquoise fittings, and a sable carriage rug. Sir Edward Malet's gifts to his bride included a handsome diamond bracelet.

The marriage of Mr. Frederic Tickell Prince, of Berkeley-square, only child of Mr. Frederic Prince, of Sawston, Cambridge, and Miss Fanny Elizabeth Agnes Ford, was solemnised on Tuesday, the 10th inst., at Christ Church, Lancaster-gate, by the Rev. Gerard Ford, brother of the bride. The bride, who was given away by her father, Major-General Barnett Ford, was dressed in a white satin petticoat, embroidered in pearls, with paniers and bodice (also trimmed with pearls and Duchesse lace), and train of white brocaded satin. Owing to a recent death in the family of the bride, the marriage was of a strictly private character. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. H. Spence Nelson as best man. The presents, which were numerous and costly, included gifts from the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Lord Ronald Gower, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Bellew, Mrs. Thornhill, Mrs. George Vivian, Mr. Alfred Tennyson, Mr. Loftus T. Wigram, Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Fox, and Mr. Augustus Hare. After lunch at Queensborough-terrace, the house of the bride's father, the newly-married couple went to pass their honeymoon at Windsor.

The marriage of Mr. Frederick Owen Young Roosmailcocq, the eldest son of the late Mr. Frederick Roosmailcocq, Indian Civil Service, with Miss Emma Mary Ross, only daughter of the late George Ross, and niece of the Rev. John Ross, vicar of Caynham, was celebrated on the 11th inst. at Caynham, near Ludlow. The church was decorated with snowdrops, arum lilies, cyclamens, &c. The bride arrived shortly after eleven o'clock, accompanied by her brother, Mr. Hunter Ross, who afterwards gave her away. Her dress was of ivory satin, the front trimmed with flounces of lace. Small bouquets of orange blossom were worn on the bodice and in her hair. The long tulle veil was fastened by a pearl spray, her only other ornament being a diamond necklet, the gift of the bridegroom. She carried a bouquet of gardenias, white camelias, and orchids. The two bridesmaids wore dresses of cream nun's veiling, sashes of crimson plush; cream hats and feathers. Each bridesmaid carried a bouquet, and wore a necklet of Indian workmanship, gifts of the bridegroom. The service was performed by the Ven. Archdeacon Maddison and the Rev. John Ross, uncle of the bride. The wedding breakfast was at the vicarage, and at three o'clock the newly-wedded pair left for Paris and Algiers. The bride's travelling dress was of myrtle-green plush, with coat, hat, and muff to correspond.

The Duchess of Bedford held a reception at the family mansion in Eaton-square, on Tuesday evening, which was very numerously attended. Some elegant toilettes were worn on the occasion. The Duchess of Bedford was attired in black satin, covered with fine white Brussels lace; Lady Ela Russell wore green satin, the train being beautifully embroidered in lilies of the valley and pearl ornaments; and Lady Ermyntrude Russell was in white; the Duchess of Norfolk wore rich pale yellow satin, the front being draped with lace and trimmed with gold tassels; the Duchess of Roxburghe was in black; the Countess of Rosebery had train of pale blue broché velvet, the petticoat of satin of the same colour being draped with white lace and broché velvet, blue feather in the hair, and splendid pearl and diamond ornaments; Countess Beauchamp, ruby brocade and black lace; Countess De La Warr, cream satin and lace, with diamond and pearl ornaments; the Countess of Lathom, black; Countess of Wharncliffe, black; the Countess of Mar, pale yellow satin and black lace; Countess Waldegrave, canary-coloured satin and pearl ornaments; Viscountess Bury, train of terra-cotta brocaded velvet, with petticoat of terra-cotta pink satin covered with cream lace flounces; Viscountess Strangford, cream moiré draped in front with cream broché velvet; Lady Clara Fielding, coral pink, ottoman train, and petticoat of brocade; Lady Wimborne, black satin and jet with diamond ornaments; Lady Abercromby, pale blue satin and lace, diamonds and flowers in the hair; Lady Auckland, dark blue brocaded velvet and diamonds; Lady Sarah Spencer Churchill, white; Lady Loyd Lindsay, grey Ottoman silk, and hair studded with diamonds; Lady Boston, blue satin, the Hon. Miss Irby, cream lace; Baroness de Penedo, pale yellow satin trimmed with pearls, and train of brocaded satin; Hon. Mabel Manners Sutton, white satin front most artistically embroidered, and train and bodice of white brocaded velvet; Hon. Mrs. Hanbury Tracy, beautiful cream and gold brocade, and diamond stars in the hair; Hon. Mrs. Cecil Ives, pale blue broché velvet and satin; Lady Brassey, handsome pale yellow brocade, opening in front over a skirt of black lace, and trimmed on the basque and in front of the bodice with clusters of yellow feathers in several shades, ornaments diamonds; Miss Brassey was in white, with pearl ornaments; Lady Evelyn Campbell, cream satin with cream flowers in the hair; Hon. Lady Cotterell, pale blue moiré with panels of velvet in a darker shade, blue feathers and diamonds in the hair; and Miss Cotterell, white tulle with pink trimmings; Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach, Lady Sophia Palmer, Lady Eliot, Lady Elizabeth Romilly, and the Countess of Galloway were in black; Mrs. Gladstone, black satin and tulle trimmed with jet, ornaments diamonds; Mrs. Malet, blue satin and brocade; Mrs. Peel, pale blue satin petticoat edged with lace, and loose train of dark blue velvet lined with crimson satin, gold sprays in the hair; Miss Peel, pale pink tulle. The numerous wedding presents that have been received by Lady Ermyntrude and Sir Edward Malet were displayed in the ballroom, and were inspected by the whole of the company.

## DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

### NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prizes, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The first monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on February 21st, February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 3.
(First Month, Tenth Year.)

1. M osco W
2. A e I
3. R otte N
4. C o D
5. H ydre S

Answers have been received from Persevere, G.C.H., Roma, Zulus, Burleigh, Todcat, Pegasus, Two Countesses, Conjecture, Paddy, Iris, Hajji, Kildale, Hampton Courtier, Ketha, Land o' Nod, Beam, Etak, Evelina, Peewit, Felix, Sociable, Viz, Spero, Eldon, Zyx, Sarnia, The Owl, and Godiva.

Zyx.—Your suggestions will be carefully considered.

Felix is credited with solution to Double Acrostic No. 2.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 5.
(First Month, Tenth Year.)

Prolem.

The Sovereign and the city o'er whose fate
Empires are joined in fierce debate.

1.
In vain may the Mahdi appeal for his aid
When the English advance through the desert is made!

2.
As men's best schemes oft fail we see,
Their best-laid plans "gang aft agley."

3.
Her witcheries have won for it lasting fame,
And handed down to this day its name.

4.
Above the island it rears its height,
Still menacing ruin in Time's despite.

5.
Though its race are a feeble folk 'tis said,
Through a fertile land destruction 'twill spread.

## LAMENT OF THE ADMIRALTY.

You ask me, Reed, you ask me why
We build our ships upon the cheap,
Unfit to fight, unfit to ply,
Or face the dangers of the deep.
With tongue and pen, with sneer and sigh,
You ask me, Reed, you ask me *why?*

A shell may promptly smash a hole,—
I grant it,—in unplated ends,
But then, we have the parasol
The artful mariner extends
To fill the breach; we've sacks of coal
With which his wooden walls he mends!

These sacks of coal, that parasol
Laid on regardless of expense,
Must seem enough, upon the whole,
To every Patriot of sense.
A Liberal should not peer and pry,
Nor ask me me why! nor ask me why!

But arts like these we'd rule the seas,
We'd terrify our foreign friends,
Heedless of bullet or of breeze,
We'd revel in unarmoured ends;
But, with inhuman ardour, Reed,
You plague the Admiralty,
'Tis most unkind of you, indeed,
To ask me why, to ask me why!

—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

The lately vacant Bell University scholarships at Cambridge were yesterday awarded, after competitive examination, as follows:—First year: J. W. G. Clay, Trinity College; E. Browne, Sidney, and M. A. North, Christ's College (equal). Second year: A. M. Knight, Pembroke, and T. C. Weatherhead, Trinity (equal). The profits of the scholarships continue for four years.

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